Al-Qaida planned to kill Pope in RP, says UK paper

Story on PAGE A2

Bad luck hounds Fokker plane pilot

CRISOSTOMO

By Norman Bordadora

"I THINK that what happened was a bad omen."

That was what Bernie L. Crisostomo told the INQUIRER about a year ago after his harrowing experience in the hands

BAD/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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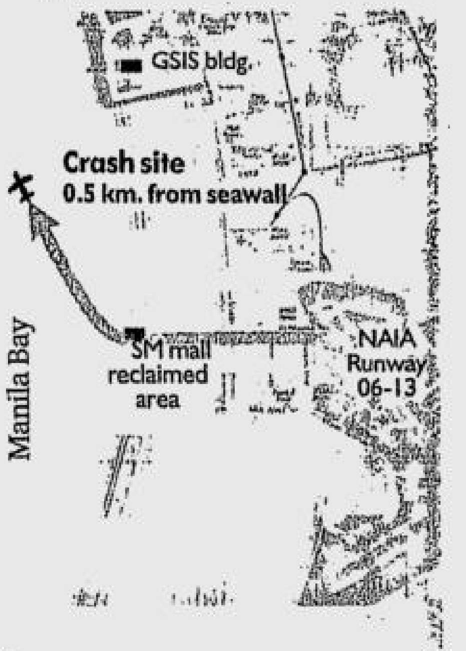
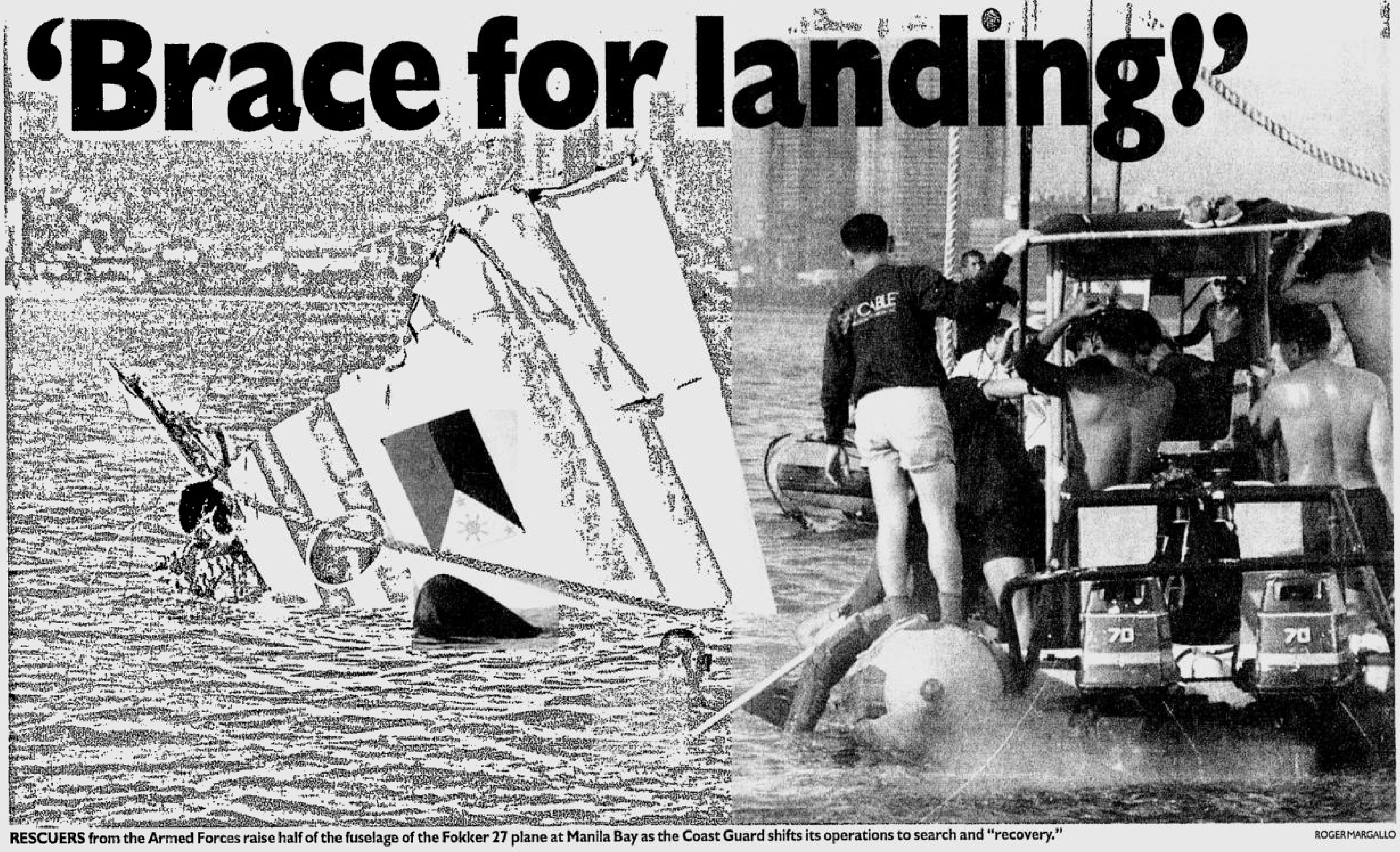
Tuesday, November 12, 2002 ★ 50 pages / 3 sections / vol. 17 / no. 337 P15



CRASH OF FLIGHT 585

'Brace for landing!'



RESCUERS from the Armed Forces raise half of the fuselage of the Fokker 27 plane at Manila Bay as the Coast Guard shifts its operations to search and "recovery." ROGER MARGALLO

Plane ditches in Manila Bay; 14 killed, 16 rescued

PASSENGER MANIFEST

SURVIVORS
1. Capt. Bernie Crisostomo
2. F/S Adhika Espinosa
3. Reyes, Efifania
4. Castillejos, Nemia
5. Poncio, Marine
6. F/O Joseph Gardiner
7. Thompson, Steve
8. F/M Juan Pornillos
9. Diero, Nolly
10. Bugarian, Tessie
11. Salazar, Jose
12. Fitero, Maria
13. Alviso, Wilfredo
14. Barcelona, Carl
15. Wright, Nick
16. Forester, Bryan

DEAD
1. F/A Gemma Dasalla
2. Bernal, Nestor
3. Dieto, Jomer
4. Nguyen, Thuan
5. Abrigonda, Edelquin
6. Padilla, Jake
7. Rada, Earl John
8. Fajardo, Josefina
9. Rada, Cheryl
10. Mata, Normita
11. Nguyen, Julia
12. Green, Darren
13. Angeles, Arnel
14. Coddington

MISSING
1. Nguyen, Minh
2. Mata, Jefferson
3. Bonson, John
4. Coddington

AMID rising tide and intense heat, Navy frogmen pluck a body out of the murky waters of the Manila Bay. Hopes of finding the missing dimmed by sunset. ERIK ARAZAS

A SURVIVOR of yesterday's plane crash in Manila Bay recalls the pilot telling passengers to "brace for landing" shortly after the Fokker 27 took off and moments before it went down and broke apart in the murky waters.

"The plane took off. It flew for three minutes, and then the engine kind of got quiet," Steve Thompson, one of at least six Australians on board, told the Associated Press. "Then I noticed some smoke coming out of the left engine, and then it banked. Then we ended up down in the water."

Asked if the passengers panicked, Thompson said: "The cabin instantly filled with water, so no one made any noises. I've seen a lot, man. This is one for the record."

Thompson said he arrived in the Philippines on Sunday night and was flying with five Australian friends to Laoag City for a surfing vacation. Saying he did not know what had happened to his friends, the 25-year-old began weeping as he spoke with his mother by telephone.

At least 14 people aboard Flight 585 of Laoag International Airlines (LIA) were killed, and 16 survived after being plucked from the waters, said LIA assistant vice president Alvin Manuel Yater.

By sunset, hopes had dimmed

PLANE A21

Family's plan to move to US also perished

By Christian V. Esguerra

HER FAMILY'S plan to pursue the American Dream crashed with Flight 585.

Laoag International Airlines flight attendant Gemma Dasalla, 38, her husband Ferdinand de la Cruz, and their three children were to leave for the United States next year.

"It is very unfortunate for them," said Gemma's aunt Tina Bongcaras, 50. "Now all their plans have gone to waste."

Ferdinand, who heads a manpower services company, was speechless at the San Juan de Dios Hospital where he waited to view the body of his wife, who was one of those reported dead by LIA as of 10:30 a.m. yesterday.

The last time he saw her alive was when he accompanied her from their house in Better Living subdivision, Parañaque City, to the Manila Domestic Airport earlier in the day.

Tired of working at her airline job, Gemma had agreed with Ferdinand's suggestion that they start a new life in the United States, according to her uncle Tomas Bongcaras, 56.

Bongcaras said that while wait-

FAMILY/ A20

Joggers, fishermen join rescue

By Christian V. Esguerra

THEY played Good Samaritans, and then they disappeared without a trace.

Relatives of Laoag International Airlines flight attendant Gemma Dasalla are looking for two joggers who had tried to save her and several others on board the ill-fated Fokker 27 plane.

The joggers, a man and a woman, hurried to the crash site and, with fishermen around, frantically tried to rescue the passengers, witnesses said.

"They were jogging along Roxas Boulevard but they immediately helped in the search for survivors," a policeman said in Filipino, quoting witnesses.

After taking survivors to the San Juan de Dios Hospital, the joggers left and gave way to the hospital people, according to Gemma's relatives.

"We want to know where they are. We want to thank them for all their help," said Gemma's un-

JOGGERS/ A21

La Oropesa marries 23-year-old

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Leah Salterio

TACLOBAN CITY—This, you might say, is a love story for the ages.

As Doña Victoria in a popular TV soap opera, the multi-awarded actress Elizabeth Oropesa, 48, had an illicit affair with a young man. On Friday, however, life improved on art, when La Oropesa married another young man, in

LA OROPESA/ A19

Loyalists reveal Imelda style: Borrow money, then hide

By Juliet L. Javellana

(Third of a series)

A USER and a traitor.

These "character defects" of former first lady Imelda Marcos only confirm the public's perception that she was the bad side of the Marcos regime, the organizer behind 4 million Marcos loyalists said yesterday.

"After she's used you, she'll throw you aside," Cherry Cobarrubias told the INQUIRER. "She'll even make you fight among yourselves. Maybe she really has no use for us anymore because she's got money now."

Speaking in Filipino, Cobarrubias said Imelda's treachery prompted her, broadcaster Rita Gaddi, Anthony Violago and Nonoy Escolin Jr., die-hard Marcos loyalists, to sever ties with her.

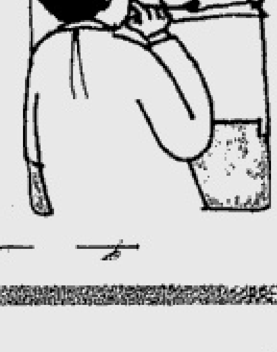
Cobarrubias and Gaddi said they were pained by Imelda's statement the other day that she had yet to compensate them for their loyalty and support.

"Now she's making us look like we're greedy," Cobarrubias said, who disclosed that she had spent her own money, aside from 16 years of her life assisting her and organizing Marcos loyalists, following the downfall of Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

"That really hurts, she does not really know the people around her," Gaddi said in a separate interview.

Cobarrubias clarified that they

LOYALISTS/ A19


TEKA LANG... NAGIISIP PA AKO NG TANONG... HMMM... ANO PA BA...

Erap lawyer stalls Ocampo testimony

By Volt Contreras

EXPECTING to see star witness Clarissa Ocampo liven up the Estrada plunder trial, spectators at the Sandiganbayan yesterday instead got a deadly lesson. How to kill time.

Defense lawyer Manuel Pamaran spent three hours cross-examining LandBank cashier Caridad Radenas, a witness who had already been grilled for three hearing days by co-counsel Prospero Crescini.

At one point, Pamaran touched on the Feb. 16, 2001 "thanksgiving dinner" hosted by President Macapagal-Arroyo

ERAP/ A19

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern sections of Luzon and Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rianshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/12/02

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Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

Al-Qaida planned to kill Pope in RP

THE AL-QAIDA terrorist network, which has claimed responsibility for the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States last year, planned to assassinate Pope John Paul II in the Philippines in 1999 during a visit that was cancelled at the last minute, a British newspaper reported Monday.

The Times said Khaled Sheikh Mohammed, named by the United States as the "brains" behind the suicide plane attacks on New York and Washington, also masterminded preparations for the assassination of the pontiff and might want to try again.

Quoting documents from Philippine intelligence services, The Times said Mohammed, al-Qaida chieftain Osama bin Laden's lieutenant, planned to kill the pope by planting a pipe bomb in a park where he was to say mass, or if that failed, with high-velocity rifles equipped with laser scopes.

Mohammed is also suspected of having been behind preparations for another attack on the pope in 1995, which failed when one of his nephews detonated the bomb prematurely, The Times said. Abdul Hakim al Hashim Murad, a Pakistani, was arrested in Manila in 1995 for his alleged involvement in that plan.

Another Mohammed nephew, Ramzi Yussef, is serving a life sentence in the United States for his role in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center basement.

The Times said the pope is preparing to visit Manila on Jan. 23-26 next year, but this has not been confirmed by the Vatican.

POPE John Paul II REUTERS

Reports that came out in the Philippines several months ago, however, said that visit has been cancelled because of the pope's failing health.

The Vatican refused to comment on The Times report but anti-terrorist experts in Italy have repeatedly warned of possible attacks by al-Qaida on the pontiff, a "symbolic Vatican target." As a result of this, security has been tightened in St. Peter's Square in Rome, the British newspaper said.

Metal detectors are now systematically used at big meetings, including the weekly papal audience on St. Peter's Square, it said.

The preparations for an attack on the pontiff in 1995 had been attributed to local organizations in the Philippines, but the plans for an attack in 1999 were never made public.

Documents found in a Karachi, Pakistan building used by Sheikh Mohammed showed that he went to the Philippines several times to prepare for the assassination attempt, the newspaper said.

Local Islamic militants were meant to set the bomb off as the pope said mass, The Times said.

Last September, Sheikh Mohammed escaped from a police operation in Karachi during which one of his close comrades, Ramzi bin al-Shaiba, was arrested.

The sheik is on the list of the 22 most wanted terrorists by United States authorities and a reward of $25 million has been offered for information leading to his arrest.

In 1995, Mohammed evaded capture but returned to the Philippines four years later, months before the pope was due to visit Manila for a canonization, The Times said. *AFP, AP*

More Americans coming to train Filipino troops

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Some 300 American troops will arrive in February next year to train Filipino soldiers in anti-terror techniques, the Southern Command said yesterday.

Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, Southcom chief, said the training would focus on setting up two additional light reaction companies (LRC) and four light infantry battalions, and boosting local helicopter pilots' night-flying and intelligence capabilities.

"We are expecting (a total of) 300 trainors, but they will come and go," Abaya said in a news conference.

Two companies of the Scout Rangers will be trained as LRCs at Fort Magsaysay in Laur, Nueva Ecija. Training for the infantry units are set in Mindanao, while the night-flight exercises will be held in Mactan, Cebu City.

Abaya said the new program was no longer part of the Balikatan Exercise 02-1, but was still covered by the Visiting Forces Agreement.

Unlike American participants of the earlier six-month training, the next batch of visiting troops will be confined to training areas, and will not observe Filipino soldiers during operations against guerrilla groups.

More than a thousand US soldiers this year advised and observed local soldiers in hunting down the Abu Sayyaf kidnap group, which has alleged links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

About 200 US soldiers are still in the southern Philippines, overseeing civic action projects begun during the joint operation against the Abu Sayyaf. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau, TJ Burgonio and AFP*

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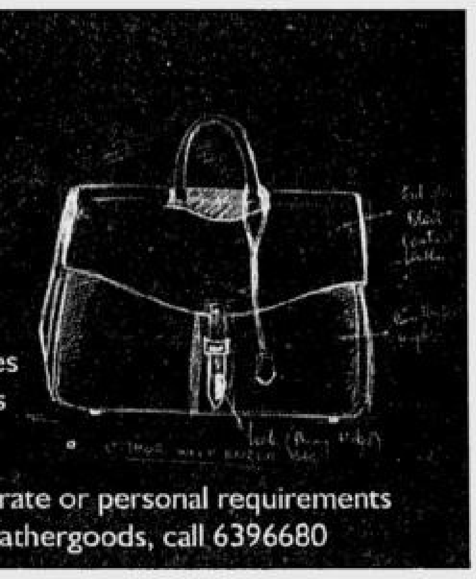

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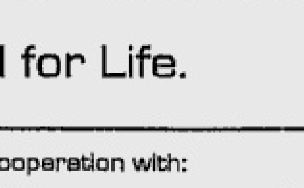

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Palace set to offer rebels amnesty

INSTEAD of peace talks, Malacañang is offering communist rebels amnesty.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is set to sign proclamation for a one-year amnesty period for the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The Cabinet oversight committee on internal security (COCIS), headed by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, yesterday unanimously approved the amnesty proclamation.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President would be signing the proclamation after the Cabinet committee finalizes its procedures and exemptions.

"The intention really is to reach out (to the rebels)," Bunye said in a briefing.

He said the amnesty offer was not inconsistent with the government's hardline stance against "terrorists."

The Macapagal administration had called the CPP-NPA "terrorists" for attacking civilians and private firms. It had convinced the United States and the European Union to list the group as a terrorist organization. *Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

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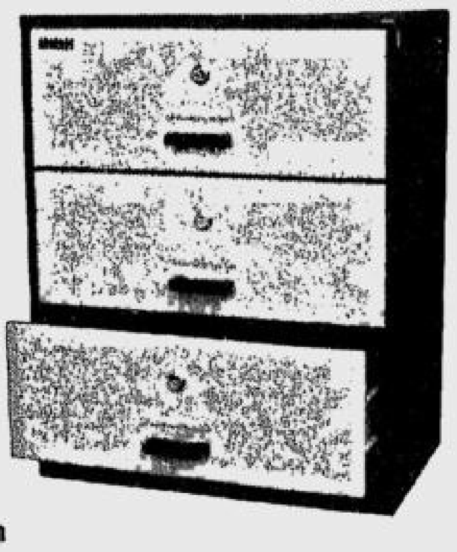

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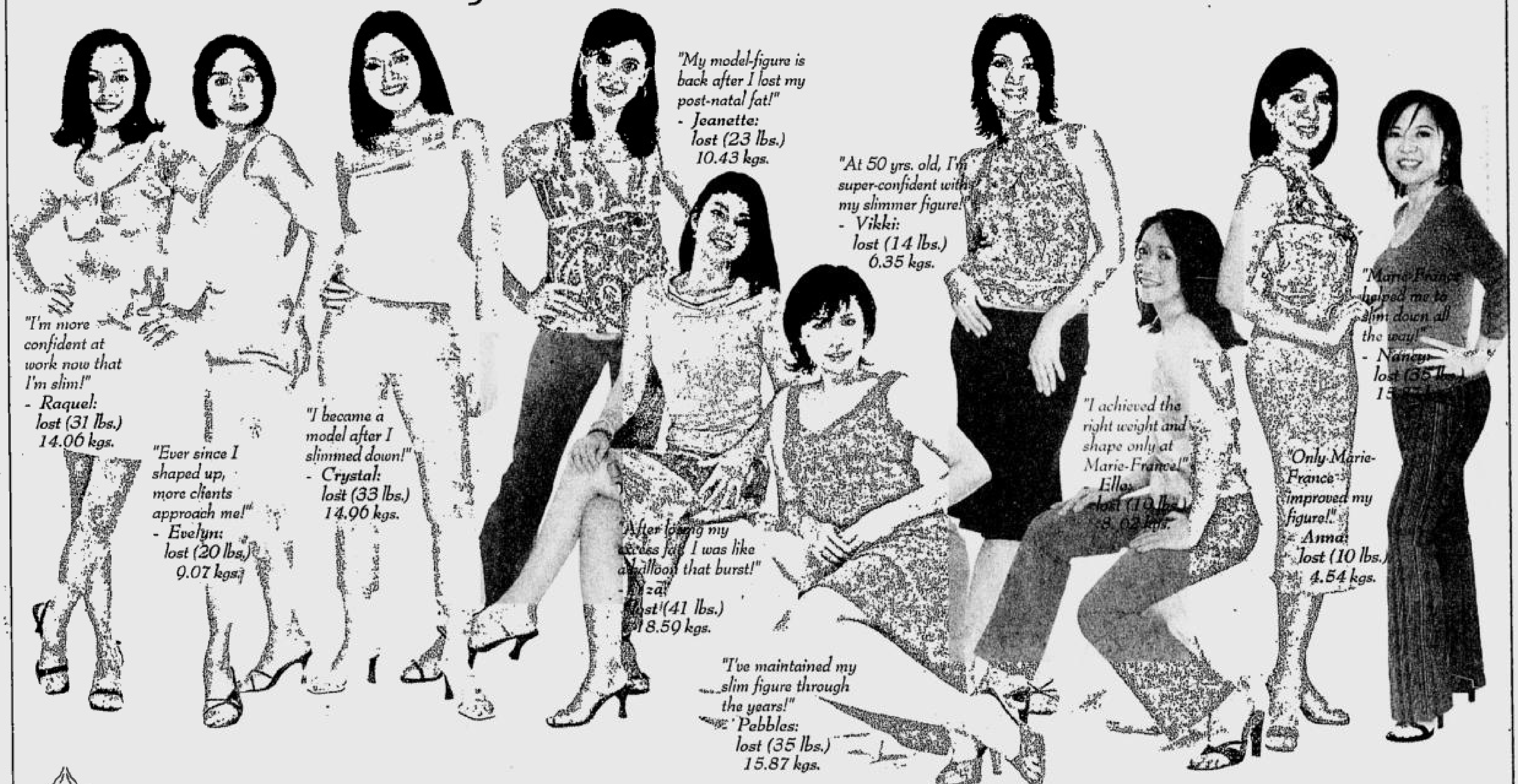

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Camacho favors non-passage of nat'l budget

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday the government would have an easier time managing public finances, especially the budget deficit, if Congress fails to approve the proposed P804.2 billion budget for 2003.

"A reenacted budget will be easier for us because it would mean we have to work on lower expenditures," he said.

Camacho acknowledged, however, that a reenacted budget would not be good for the economy as it would leave no room for additional spending to spur growth.

This year's expenditures were set at P726.1 billion against revenues of P596.1 billion.

In the budget proposal for 2003, expenditures are pegged at P782.8 billion and revenues at P640.7 billion leading to a deficit of P142.1 billion.

The 2003 budget submitted to Congress amounts to P804.2 billion against P769.8 billion this year.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin in an earlier interview said a reenacted budget would mean "there would be no new projects."

Camacho said the government's economic team would be reviewing starting this week the targets for 2003, and would be taking into consideration the possibility that Congress would not approve the proposed general appropriations act for next year.

Keeping a lid on expenditures, as would happen if the 2003 budget proposal is not approved, would stunt economic growth. As measured by gross domestic product, the economy has to grow between 5 and 5.5 percent next year.

The budget chief, however, said she was confident that Congress would find time to approve the proposed 2003 budget this year or in January at the latest.

The P34.4 billion increase in the budget this year would finance items necessary to transform the Philippines into a stronger republic, Camacho said.

Among the sectors being proposed for increased allocations are education with an additional P1.1 billion to P104.4 billion, infrastructure with P900 million to P61.4 billion, the Armed Forces with P4.2 to P50.5 billion, trade and tourism with P300 million to P3.1 billion.

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This was the result of major changes in the power contract entered into by the National Power Corp. with Argentinian firm Industrias Metalurgicas Pescarmona S. A. (Impsa) for the rehabilitation of the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan (CBK) hydroelectric complex in Laguna.

Opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña III revealed the arrangement, noting that the Impsa-CBK contract was "similar to the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) and Philippine Estates Authority (PEA) deals, wherein significant and major changes were made after the losing bidder had withdrawn."

All told, Osmeña said, Impsa spent only $9 million for the project, and Napocor has paid it $50 million as of June this year. "The amount is still increasing," he said.

Total payments would reach $112 million or P5.8 billion, over the 25-year build-rehabilitate-operate-transfer period, he said. *R. Nazareno*

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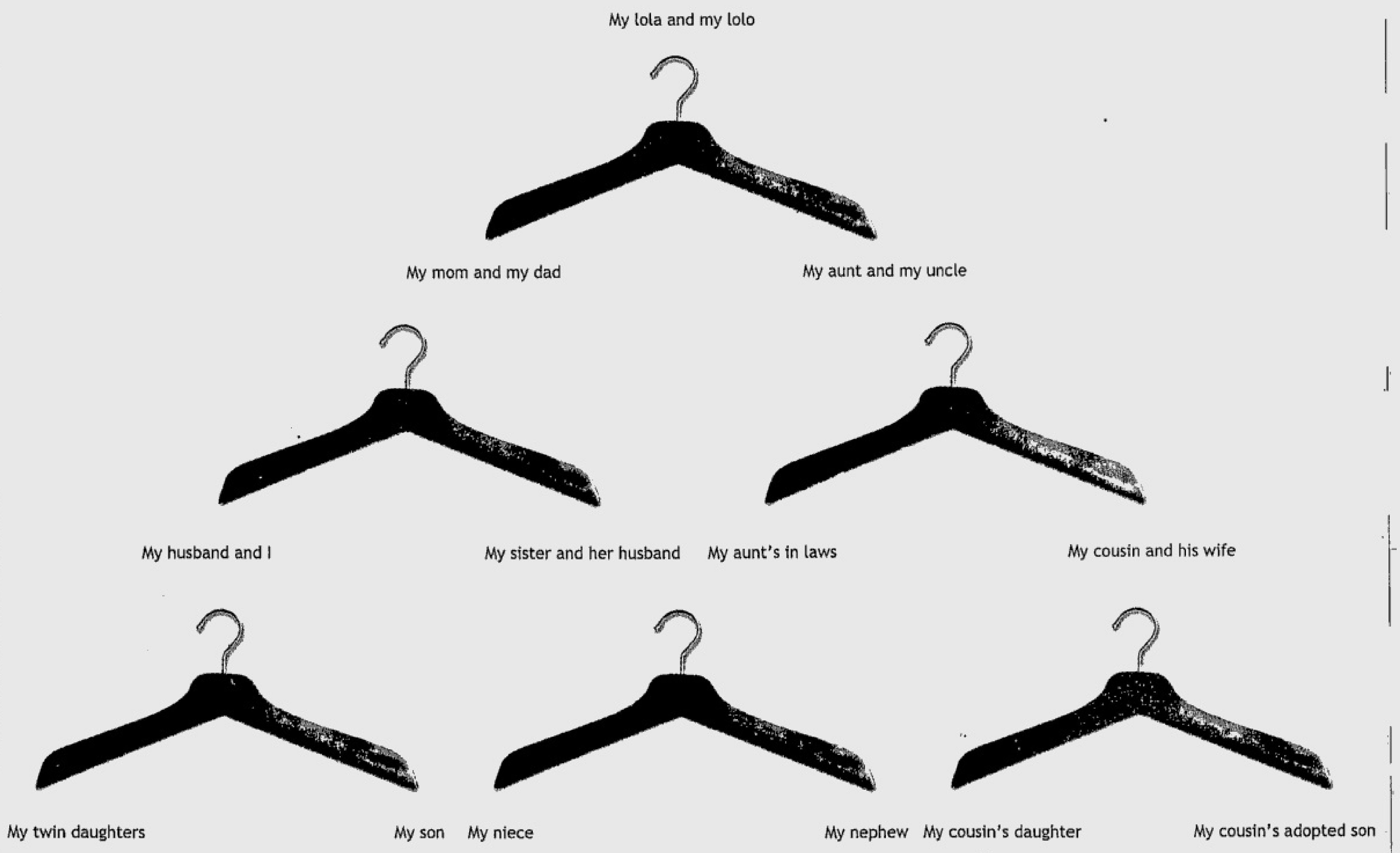

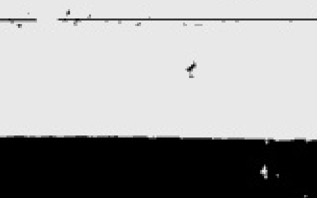

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More solons rap vegetable imports

By Christine O. Avendaño

LAWMAKERS rallied yesterday behind the call of Benguet Rep. Samuel Dangwa to save the domestic vegetable industry from collapse following the importation and smuggling of huge quantities of vegetables into the country.

In a privileged speech, Dangwa said vegetable farmers in his province lost P20 million in August after the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Plant Industry allowed Rustan's Supermarket and Truckerbag Inc. to import 3,000 kilos of carrots and 5,000 kilos of assorted vegetables from Australia.

The mayors of Benguet, he said, have complained that traditional Metro Manila markets and even their trading post in La Trinidad were now selling the imported vegetables.

Dangwa said that for the past several months there have been importations of diced and fresh vegetables from Holland, Australia and the United States for the supply of local hotels.

"The effect was negligible but when the importation became massive and regular because of abuse in the issuance of permits to import, the farmers got alarmed," he said.

Dangwa said local farmers could compete with imported vegetables if the government gave them adequate support, "like good farm-to-market roads."

He appealed to the government to listen to local vegetable industry leaders, who have appealed for the suspension of the GATT provision lifting quantitative restrictions on vegetable imports into the country.

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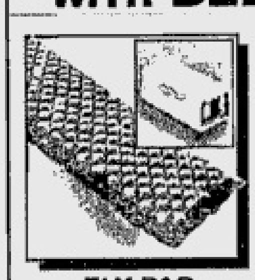

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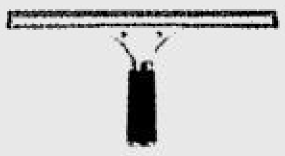

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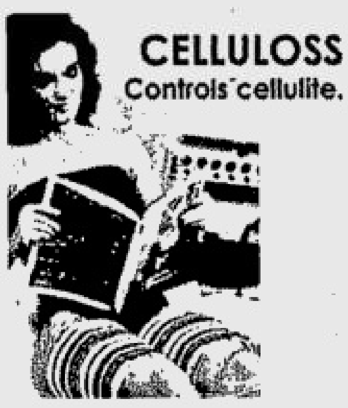

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2004 campaign season starts early for Cabinet

By Carlito Pablo

THE "STRONG republic" is suiting up for the election battles of 2004.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has flashed the green light for members of her Cabinet, who intend to seek national or local elective posts in 2004, to start their respective campaigns, a Cabinet official said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the President "wants her men to begin testing the waters in order to find out early on whether they have a fighting chance."

"This will enable the administration to later firm up its official ticket, like let's say for the senatorial lineup," the source said.

The official said the President gave the go-ahead at a recent meeting with select members of the Cabinet, but he refused to divulge details of that conference.

"The idea is to find out who will make a good run in 2004 and determine who will be designated as second-liners," the source said.

Secretaries Hernando Perez, Richard Gordon and Jose Lina of justice, tourism, and interior and local government, respectively, are said to be gunning for seats in the Senate.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, a former senator, is reportedly keeping his options open and "may run again if his candidacy is deemed needed by Malacañang," the source said.

Agrarian Secretary Hernani Braganza purportedly wants to run for his old seat in the House representing Pangasinan, the source added.

'Revamp won't change anything'

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

"ANOTHER window dressing," is how the reported Cabinet revamp appears to unimpressed government workers, who said yesterday they doubted that it would actually result in a more efficient government.

Or, in the words of Ferdinand Gaite, president of the Confederation for the Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage): "Same dog, new collar."

Gaite noted that Cabinet officials might only be transferred to other posts, "when heads should be rolling."

He cited the case of Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza who, despite cases pending at the Ombudsman and Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC), was to be moved to the Department of Agriculture.

This actually looked like a promotion, Gaite said, considering the DA's bigger budget.

And why was the name of Government Service Insurance System president Winston Garcia not on the revamp list, the Courage leader wondered. He said government workers were furious at Garcia for having bought a P50-million Juan Luna painting using GSIS funds.

Gaite added that his group supported the reported ouster of Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, but opposed the possible appointment of former senator and congressman Ernesto Herrera to the Department of Labor and Employment.

Talk of the reshuffle persisted at the Palace despite repeated denials by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

Earlier statement

Bunye, in his regular press briefing, said Malacañang was standing by its earlier statement that "no wide ranging revamp... was about to take place."

But a Cabinet source yesterday said at least a "minimum shakeup" could definitely be expected. In fact, a Palace insider revealed, the plan was discussed as far back as three months ago, to weed out "under-performers" who were affecting the popularity of the President.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran suspected that Tiglao and Bunye were no longer privy to the real goings-on in Malacañang, based on their comments which contradicted other observations. "They should be indignant about being kept in the dark," Beltran said.

If Tiglao and Bunye didn't get their facts straight soon, he said, "they would be liabilities to themselves and to Malacañang."

At the reopening of Congress yesterday, Senate President Franklin Drilon said the President was on the right track, but refused to say who among the Cabinet members should go and who should be retained.

Sen. Ralph Recto urged the President to expand the review and revamp coverage to include executives of government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions. *With Cynthia D. Balana and Carlito Pablo*

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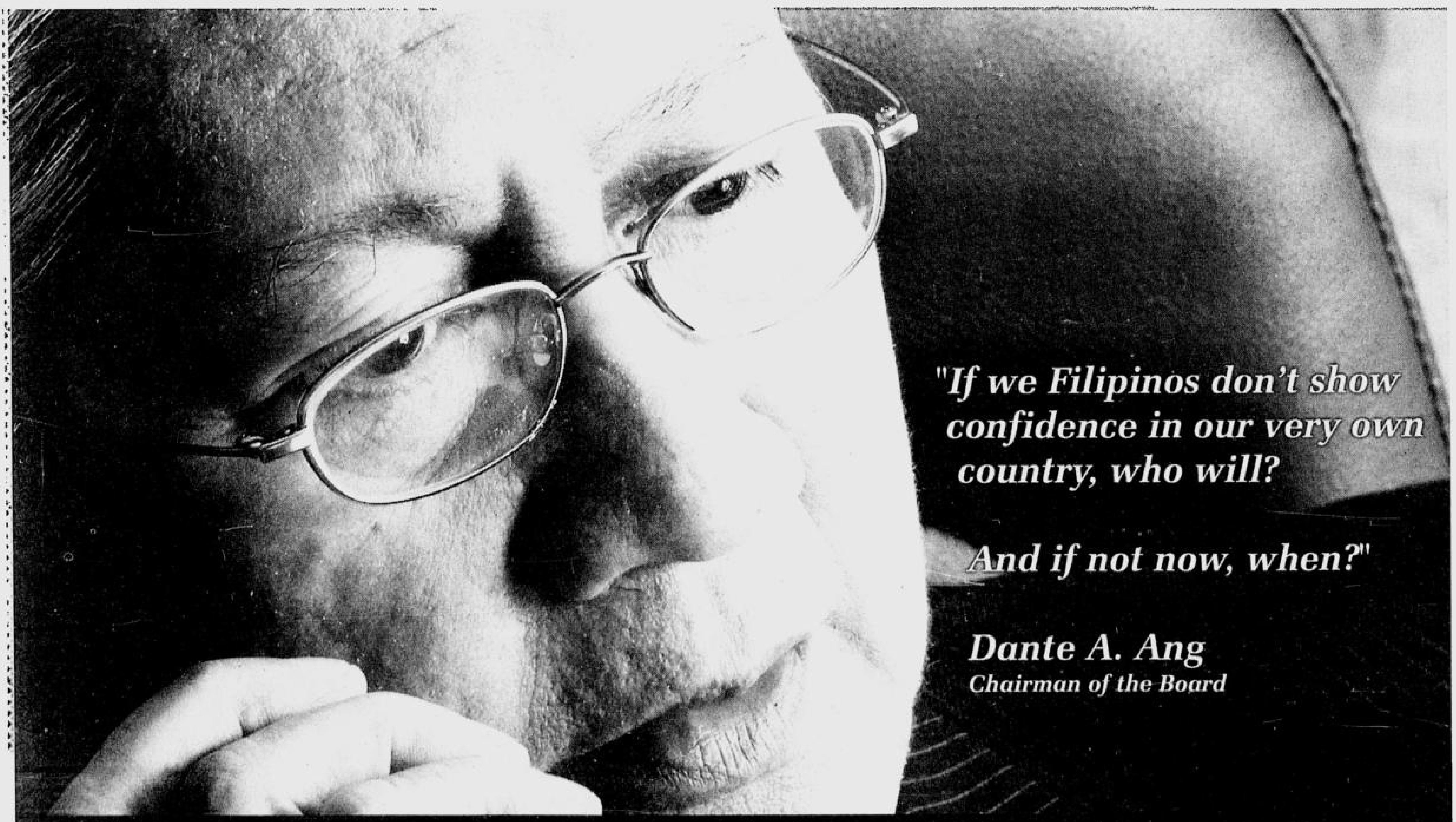
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SC order halts new party-list proclamation

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE 16 newly minted party-list representatives, including a son of El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde, cannot assume their House seats just yet because of a standing temporary restraining order from the Supreme Court.

The Commission on Elections said it would not be able to proclaim the 16 new party-list members that the poll body last week said had qualified as winners because of the SC prohibition.

The high court on May 9, 2001 ordered the Comelec to stop the proclamation of any party-list winners after several complaints surfaced against the legitimacy of many party-list groups.

On Nov. 6, however, the Comelec issued a resolution declaring 16 party-list winners from the Buhay, Butil, Amin, Akbayan, National Confederation of Irrigators Association, Citizens Battle Against Corruption and the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives.

Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco said it was up to the 16 candidates to seek relief from the TRO so they can assume their posts and perform their functions in Congress.

"I presume that the parties would go to the Supreme Court so they can be proclaimed. Whether they do it in a week's time or a day's time is not for the Comelec to facilitate anymore," Tancangco said in a phone interview.

Since the 2001 elections, the poll body has proclaimed at least five party list representatives following the partial lifting of the TRO in their cases.

She said the Comelec was acting within bounds when it declared the 16 candidates winners despite the Supreme Court's standing TRO as the 16 representatives had obtained the required two percent of the total party-list vote.

Commissioner Mehol Sadain said this became possible after the total party-list vote was reduced following the SC's disqualification of many party-list groups affiliated with major political parties.

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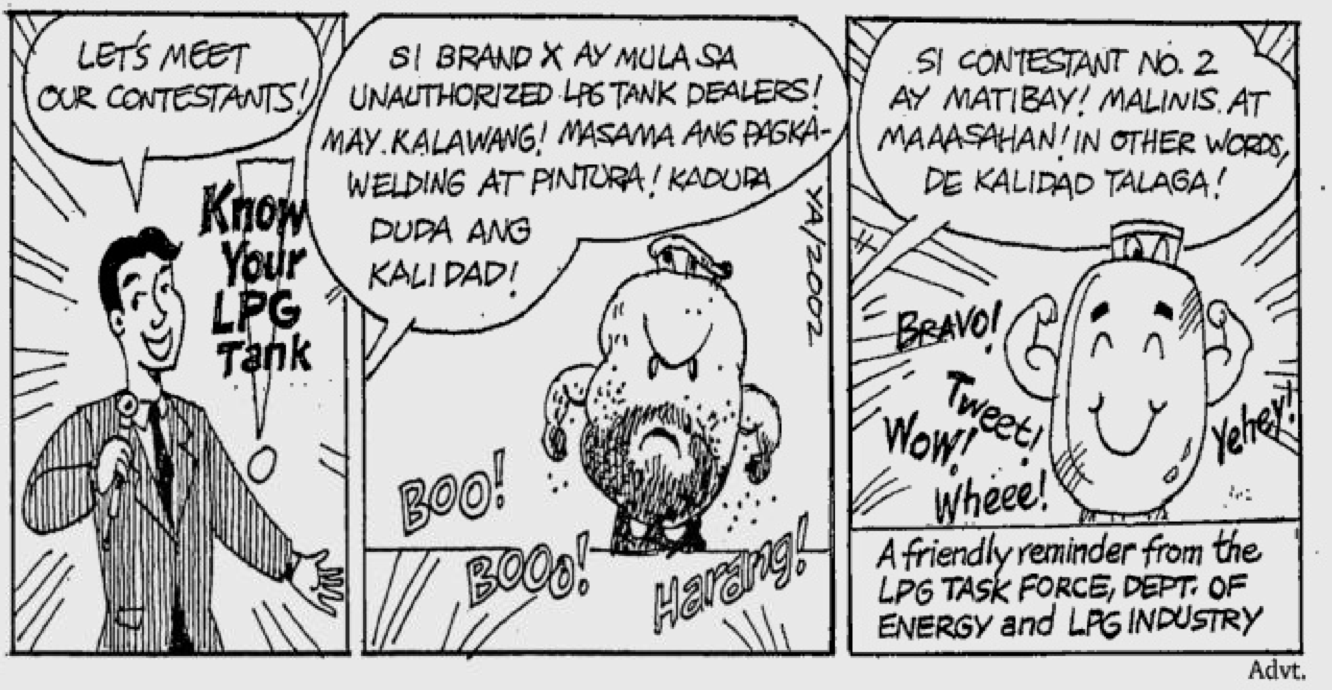
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Advt.

Immigration reshuffle at Naia ordered

FACED with allegations of corruption and involvement in the smuggling of humans, the Bureau of Immigration yesterday effected a revamp of its more than 200 personnel at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Eleven Immigration supervisors and 56 Immigration officers assigned to the Naia Terminal 1 were transferred to the Naia 2 while 12 supervisors and 90 officers at the Naia 2 were deployed to Terminal 1.

The 30 members of the Naia monitoring units in the two terminals were also reshuffled and given new assignments, the bureau said in a statement.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said the reshuffle was meant to curb the so-called "escort racket" allegedly being perpetrated by immigration personnel at the airport.

The rotation of airport personnel would be effected periodically, she said.

Domingo has ordered an investigation into the involvement of some BI personnel in human smuggling, which allegedly earn them up to P500,000 for each person escorted into and out of the country without travel documents.

Domingo said she has received reports about immigration personnel allowing into the country Indians and Chinese without travel papers or with fraudulent documents through the escort system.

The BI chief also banned immigration personnel from using mobile phones and beepers while on duty as this was reportedly how the escort system was facilitated.

Immigration personnel will also be required to draw lots everyday to determine which counter they would be monitoring that day, Domingo said.

The bureau's airport personnel will grow to 350 when the bureau's main office relocates to the Naia 3 terminal, which will open next month. *Blanche S. Rivera*

Militants say no to phone cards

WORKERS need a wage increase, not cell cards, militant groups declared yesterday as they trashed a proposal by the Trade Union of the Philippines and Allied Services (Tupas) for employers to give workers a "cell card allowance" instead of a salary increase.

"Where in heaven's name did this labor group get its idea that workers are demanding a budget for cell cards? This is bankruptcy of the highest order," the militant Pamalakaya group said.

The Labor Solidarity Movement, an alliance of labor groups including the Tupas, the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, the Federation of Free Workers and the Alliance of Free Workers on Friday said it would postpone filing a petition for a wage increase "until there are substantial improvements in the economy."

Tupas proposed instead that employers grant their workers an allowance with which to buy cellular phone call cards which come in denominations of P300 and P500.

Even lowly workers are addicted to mobile phone use, contributing to the Philippines' reputation as the world's "text capital."

Pamalakaya has been supporting the call of the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno for a P125 across-the-board wage increase. Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran, the KMU chair, co-authored a House bill proposing a P125 wage increase.

Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap disputed the claim of some labor groups that the economy would collapse if employers were to grant their workers a P125 pay hike, a warning earlier aired by the labor department.

"Increasing the purchasing capacity power of workers would make a buoyant turn in the condition of the economy," he said. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

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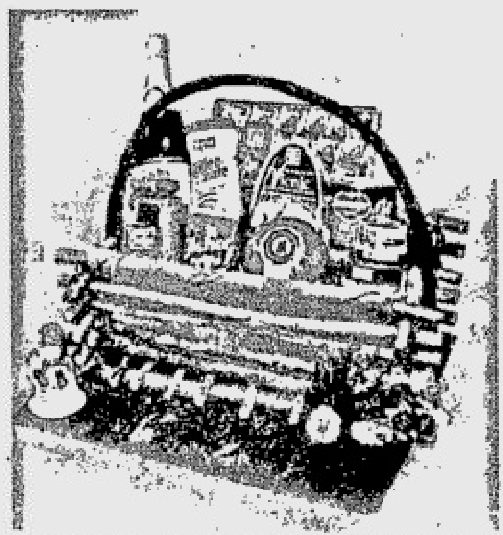
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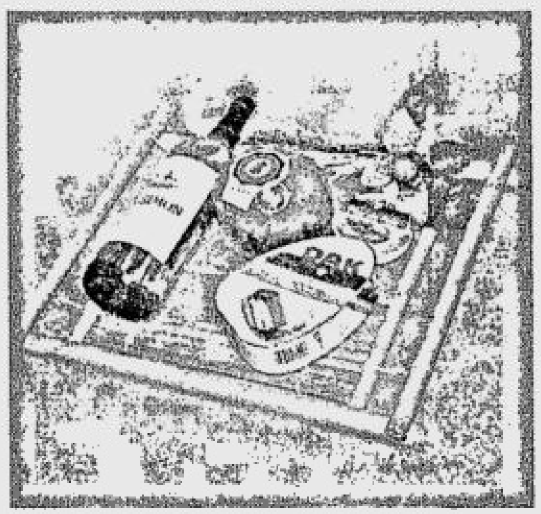
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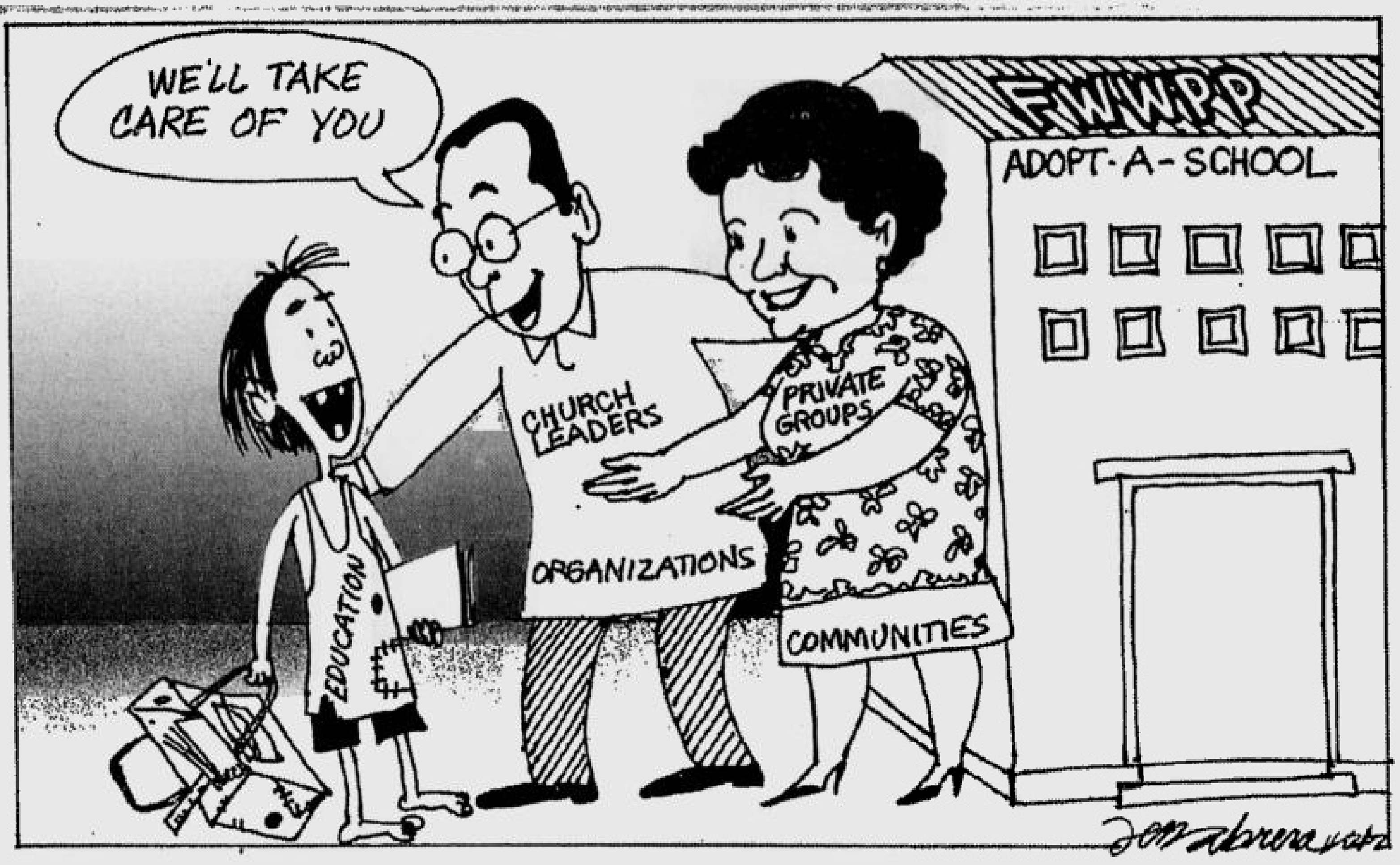

Necessity

EDITORIALS

IT is a measure of the importance that the cellphone has assumed in our daily lives that workers are now demanding, in lieu of a wage increase, a freeze on the prices of prepaid cellular phone cards, among other things. The Labor Solidarity Movement is also urging the government to include the maintenance of a cellphone in the consumer price index because it says it has become a necessity for everyone.

The CPI is the measure of the average changes in the retail prices of a fixed basket of goods and services usually purchased by households for their consumption. The basket includes food, beverages and tobacco; clothing; housing and repairs; fuel, light and water; and services. Now the workers want the cost of using a cellphone included in the CPI.

The workers appear to have a valid reason to ask that the cost of using a cellphone be included in the CPI, and that the prices of cell-phone cards be frozen. They are also asking that a proposal to tax text messages be scrapped as it would reduce the workers' take-home pay.

Cellphones have truly become a necessity for workers not only in the urban areas but in the countryside. The Labor Solidarity Movement said about 70 percent of the workers in Metro Manila and the provinces have cellphones and consume a minimum of about P300 worth of cell cards every month. Another report says that 6 out of every 10 blue-collar workers own cellphones, and that 18 million workers send 180 million text messages a day.

The government would do well to consider the workers' demands. During the current economic slowdown, employers may not be in a position to grant a wage increase. The demands made by the Labor Solidarity Movement are a creative solution that would ease somewhat the financial burden of the workers and at the same time allow them to continue using a gadget that has become a necessity of modern life.

Connectivity

A BOOK published by the De La Salle University Press, "Txt-ing Selves: Cellphones and Philippine Modernity," was launched last week at a reception at the Finnish Embassy. Written by five academics, the book discusses the impact of the cellphone on the country's society and politics.

The study says that cellphones have become a major icon of Philippine life. "They have replaced the jeepney as the expression of what is quintessentially Filipino. Both symbols deal with mobility and connectivity, but while the jeepney attempts to traverse physical distance, the cellphone supersedes it."

Among the findings of the study:

—Cellphones are mainly used for texting. Texting is preferred over voice calls not only because it is cheaper but because it preserves the anonymity of writing and yet retains the immediacy and informality of speech.

—Filipinos have taken to cellphones because of the lack of adequate and inexpensive telephone (land line) and other modern communication facilities.

—Cellphones played a crucial role in the political mobilization for Edsa II, but had less impact on the users' political opinions. "They do not appear to significantly strengthen the public sphere and national life. They may, in fact, contribute to the fragmentation of public life."

—Cellphones are the ultimate symbols and expressions of global modernity and complex connectivity. They are a necessary tool in a world that has truly become McLuhan's global village.

On a more intimate note, a columnist has noted that courtship through texting is a technology phenomenon of our times. We wonder how many romances bloomed and ended in marriages because of communication facilitated by cellphones.

The texting fever has spread abroad, exported by overseas Filipino workers who keep in constant touch with their loved ones through an inexpensive medium. Globe Telecom estimates that Filipinos exchange 100 million text messages daily, and of these a big percentage come from people outside the country.

The De la Salle study noted that while the cellphone may have promoted social relationships, it has not developed connectivity for other purposes such as economic development or political governance. It now remains for the government and civil society to explore and promote its uses toward these ends.

Make Lina anti-squatting czar

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

IF THERE is to be a Cabinet revamp, Secretary Joey Lina should not be removed from the Department of Interior and Local Government—not yet. I have a suggestion to solve the squatting problem: Make Lina the anti-squatting czar in addition to being DILG secretary. He needs both positions because the Urban Development and Housing Act, better known as the Lina Law, is implemented by local government units.

As the principal author and defender of the law bearing his name, Lina should be the best man to implement it. Since it was passed many years ago, the law, touted as the ultimate solution to the squatting problem, has made the problem many times worse instead. When you confront Lina with this undeniable fact, he claims it is not the fault of the law. He says the law is not being implemented properly.

The law is supposed to be implemented by the LGUs. He is the Cabinet member who supervises LGUs. So why doesn't he order the LGUs to implement that stupid Lina Law properly.

He says the law does not mandate the payment of "disturbance fees" to the squatters before they are relocated. So why does the Department of Public Works and Highways pay them "disturbance fee"? This coddling of squatters doubles the cost of streets and roads. And this is what makes the squatting problem worse. When squatters hear that a road is about to be constructed, their number immediately increases. They expect to be paid when they are relocated.

The payment of "disturbance fees" is also one of the things that attract people from the provinces to squat in urban areas. Where can lawbreakers use somebody else's property for free for years, and still be paid before being relocated to a unit in a housing project, also almost for free, which they can later sell to a third party before going back to squatting and repeating the same profitable rigmarole?

The strange thing is that the DPWH keeps paying the squatters these disturbance fees. Another strange thing is that the DPWH allows squatting and does not ask LGUs to prevent new squatters from building shanties on roads it is about to construct to keep the costs down.

Lina also says that the law does not require that the squatter approve a relocation site. So why do the squatters demand, after accepting the "disturbance fees," that they be transferred to relocation sites of their choice? Some, like the squatters on Congressional Avenue, demand that the prime land along the street be subdivided for them. If this is not allowed by the Lina Law, why does the government allow it?

Lina likewise says that the law prohibits and penalizes squatting syndicates. Behind every squatter colony is a squatting syndicate. It has lawyers, enforcers, rent collectors, fixers, etc. When you make it known that you want to squat in a colony, they tell you the conditions and the amounts you have to pay to them.

When you ask Lina if they have arrested and successfully prosecuted members of squatting syndicates, he hesitates and replies haltingly: "*May ilan.*" Why *ilan lang* when there are so many of them? Jail the leaders of squatting syndicates and you stop squatting.

Providing squatters with houses and lots and paying them will not stop squatting. It is like spreading sugar on anthills. It is telling people that squatting pays. But dismantling squatting syndicates and jailing their leaders will stop it. It will show that squatting does not pay, that if you squat on somebody else's property, you will be relocated in a big house with stone walls and iron bars.

Lina also says that not all squatters have to be relocated, and that his law mandates LGUs to make a census of squatters in their jurisdictions, that the deadline for the census had expired several years ago, and that those who squat after the census are not entitled to relocation. So why does the DPWH relocate all the squatters, including those who arrived after the census?

There is also a law that says squatters on the sites of government infrastructure projects like streets and along waterways can be ejected summarily. So why does the DPWH tiptoe around squatters living on road rights of way and along rivers and esteros?

Lina also claims that his law penalizes local officials who tolerate squatting. Mayors, councilors, governors, board members, barangay captains and *tanods* do not only tolerate squatting but encourage them. Barangay captains and tanods collect *tong* from squatters. Councilors teach them what to do to avoid ejectment. Congressman build them basketball courts. Politicians of all stripes bring in more squatters before election time. But has Lina implemented his own law and penalized any local government official? No.

So, by Lina's own admission, the law is not being implemented at all. Only the provision favoring the squatters is being implemented: no squatter can be ejected without relocation. But Lina knows that the government does not have enough land or money to relocate all the squatters. That because of the incentives, the more squatters we relocate, the more squatters take their place. That the government will run out of money and land and the squatting problem will never be solved.

So if we cannot implement the Lina Law properly, why keep it at all? If it is clear that a law has made a problem worse, shouldn't it be repealed?

But Lina says his law should not be repealed. It should only be implemented properly to make it work. So make him implement it properly and make it work. If he cannot do that after a certain amount of time, then fire him.

'Trapo'

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

A LETTER-writer asked me if I shared that view that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo seems to be one of those leaders who, like Mikhail Gorbachev, do so well abroad but fare so badly at home.

No, I do not. First off, I do not share the view that she does well abroad. Her accomplishments in that respect seem more the product of PR than anything else. Her recent trip to Cambodia is a case in point. Some friends of mine just came from there and corroborated the impression I had while watching BBC and CNN. The meet was not about terrorism, it was about trade. Though the Asean leaders voiced some concerns about the effects of the bombings in Bali and Zamboanga on tourism, they did not make that their waking preoccupation, or obsession.

"*Sintunado* (out of tune), said one. "Everyone was talking about how to deal with China; she was talking about how to deal with terrorists."

Another said it reminded her of the days of Seato when we thought Southeast Asia envied us no end for having Carlos P. Romulo to promote the American viewpoint when it was merely laughing behind our back. Today, Southeast Asians remember that Thailand has a king named Bhumibol who is the source of Thai unity and pride, that Singapore has a leader named Lee Kuan Yew who, warts and all, carved out a prosperous nation out of the wilderness, that Vietnam had a visionary named Ho Chi Minh who brought France and the United States to a halt. Who remembers Romulo?

As to faring badly at home, that is the rather surprising thing in light of the above. Because clearly the posturing abroad is meant to win more points at home than abroad. GMA cannot possibly hope to score big with a "CPR Part II" stance with a region that prides itself with its independence and neutrality. But she can always hope to score big with a nation that prides, or deludes, itself with the thought it is God's, or America's, chosen. The surveys bear this out: pro-Americanism sells in this country. Or never mind the surveys, just look at the persistence, and even proliferation, of "statehood" movements.

So why is GMA doing badly at home?

I myself think that is because Dante Ang's PR antics have boomeranged. The unrelenting, aggressive and often vulgar selling of the President is not scoring points, it is earning demerits. The effort to make GMA ubiquitous, from calendars to huge roadside posters that say "GMA cares," and show her to have the common touch (planting rice in fields, breaking bread with the poor), is not making her look good, it is making her look bad. It is not making her look like she cares, it is making her look like she cares only about winning a second term. They are making her look like a *trapo*.

What is a *trapo* really? That is not such an easy question to answer, as you will find out if you ask people—or even just yourself—what it really means. It is a concept that is more intuited than pinned down to its individual parts. But we can get a good idea of how the public understands it by looking at the three people who got waylaid by the tag: Doy Laurel, Ramon Mitra and Jose de Venecia, all of whom lost the elections as a result.

What made them *trapo* in the eyes of the public? Was it the taint of corruption? Well, no better or worse than the others—probably better than worse. There were hints and allegations about Laurel's handling of the centennial funds, about Mitra's ability to get his minions in Congress to sign even toilet paper, and De Venecia's propensity to make media people happy to get a good press. But nothing hugely scandalous or definitive.

Was it the fact that they had been "career politicians"? Well, Doy belonged to the Laurel clan, Mitra was among the blast victims in Plaza Miranda in 1971 and De Venecia was associated with Marcos. But others were "career politicians" or belonged to traditional "political families" as well and did not get to be tagged as *trapo*. Jovito Salonga, Teofisto Guingona and the Osmeñas (John, Lito and Serge) were, or are, so.

Quite simply, they were thought of as *trapo* because the public perceived them, for the most part intuitively, as being obsessed with becoming president and devoting all their waking moments to it. The public reaction to them was not seething hostility but vague distrust. It was not outright disgust but gnawing suspicion. You had the feeling at the back of your mind that these were people who were not beyond selling their souls for the position—or at least not beyond the selling the country for it.

I believe the same thing is happening to GMA, courtesy of the pervasive, persistent and ultimately pernicious selling of her by a man who now owns a bank. That at least is how I would interpret the surveys, formal and informal, that consistently put her behind others in ranking, notwithstanding the rise and fall of her approval ratings. That isn't just the reaction of the Erap legions to her being the replacement for their idol, though I imagine there is that too. That is the reaction of a public to someone who is projecting the image of being driven by vaulting ambition.

It certainly cannot help that GMA owes her current position to an act of people power. Or to a political exercise that conjures all the elements that are anathema to the single-minded pursuit of personal interest. The elements, namely, of altruism, selflessness, heroism, which we associate "Edsa" with. That makes for a staggering contrast, and sharpens the image of *trapo*. Laurel, Mitra and De Venecia did not just lose the elections, they lost them badly. There's a moral there:

It does not profit a person to gain the whole world but lose his soul. But to not gain it anyway! That is the unkindest cut of all.

Just like in the movies, but it's not for RP

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WHEN I read about how an unmanned Hellfire missile launched from a remote-controlled CIA Predator aircraft hit a vehicle on a lonely road in Yemen in the Middle East, killing all six suspected al-Qaida operatives inside, I said to myself: Wow, just like in the movies. I recall a movie of Harrison Ford, where he was cast as a high-ranking CIA official, where a similar missile hit a vehicle which notorious drug lords were riding on their way to a summit with other drug lords in Colombia.

At the recent two-day conference against terrorism in Makati, Ambassador Francis Taylor, chief of the US State Department's counter-terrorism group, said this type of strike may be used anywhere where it is necessary, including Southeast Asia. That missile strike stirred a big controversy in Yemen, revolving around the question of whether it was a military offensive or murder.

Taylor must be congratulated for his candor, but alas, this cannot be allowed here as the blurring of distinctions constitutes a danger to human rights. Besides, there is still so much confusion over the presence of these terrorist forces that to zero in on one group and exterminate it could present dangers.

* * *

Just how complicated holding absentee voting for overseas Filipinos, as provided for by a law currently being hammered out in Congress, may be gleaned from the fact that, in Rome alone, there are 38 Filipino communities with about 24,000 registered members (doubtless, many more are unregistered). So large is the Filipino group there that as a Rome-based Jesuit family friend, Fr. Joe Quilong-Quilong of Cagayan de Oro City, pointed out, Pope John Paul II was encouraged to create a "personal parish" specially for the Filipinos in the Basilica of Sta. Potenciana under the diocese of Rome. This is where Filipinos hear Mass in droves on Sundays. Now, if absentee voting could be conducted like a religious gathering of Pinoys, then everything would be smooth. Unfortunately, this first voting in 2004 is unlikely to go so smoothly.

* * *

From the book corner: the 8th Paz Marquez Benitez Memorial Lecture will be held tomorrow, Nov. 13, at 4 p.m. at the Social Science Building on the Ateneo campus in Quezon City, under the auspices of the Ateneo Library of Women's Writings. The lecturer is my fellow alumna of the old Holy Ghost College and the University of the Philippines, Teresa Martinez Sicat, Ph.D., who will speak on "Philippine History according to Linda Ty-Casper." Sicat will also do a "reading" from Ty-Casper's latest novel, a historical fiction titled "The Stranded Whale," which will be launched then. Ty-Casper will make a response.

Few people know that the multi-awarded author graduated valedictorian of the UP College of Law Class of 1955 and did research at Widener's Library at Harvard University, where she took her master's in law. There she got hooked on the Philippine-Spanish and Spanish-American Wars and started to collect data on these studies since 1969. But fiction writing obviously was her love.

* * *

Some of us just wring our hands in despair over the state of affairs here, specially the depredation of the environment. But happily there are those who do something concrete to change the situation. They include the wellborn ladies of the Makati Garden Club (MGC), led by its chair, Ging de los Reyes, overall committee chair Luisa Perez-Rubio, and other dedicated ladies including Ching Caluag, Belen King and Nene Mathay. They have raised funds for two projects they are taking care of in partnership with the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP). Because they are gardening aficionados, they raise funds by holding a yearly "Festival of Trees" featuring uniquely decorated Christmas trees that are sold to a select crowd.

This Thursday, Nov. 14, at 6:30 p.m., the "Festival of Trees" will be held at the Manila Polo Club, with President Macapagal-Arroyo as guest of honor. Eight gift-laden Christmas trees made by the MBC ladies, each with its own unique theme, will be silently auctioned along with other art objects. The highlight will be the oral auction whose unique piece will be a special painting made and donated for the occasion by MGC's benefactress, famed artist Anita Magsaysay-Ho. The target amount to be raised is P8 million. There will also be dinner and dancing to music by the famed Spirit of '67 band.

* * *

Over the past eight years, the MGC and the PBSP have teamed up to to raise funds to take care of two environmental communities. The first is Olango Island, off Mactan in Cebu, which is home to the 920-hectare Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary, which serves as a haven for thousands of migratory birds seeking refuge in its mangrove and coastal areas to escape from the harsh winter abroad. Since MGC and PBSP adopted Olango, three hectares of mangrove reforestation sites have been planted with more than 83,000 hills of growing mangrove. The plan is to help the fisherfolk and their families through training in livelihood skills and financial assistance.

The other beneficiary is Maqueda Bay in Samar, on which some 250,000 Samarenos are dependent for their livelihood, but which has sunk into decrepitude. Since 1994, PBSP has implemented an integrated resource generation and livelihood program that includes building the multi-species hatchery complex and a marine-protected area, and the reforestation of 20 more hectares of mangroves in the last two years.

Viagra and Postinor

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FOR many years, recalls Dr. Felicia Stewart of the University of California, San Francisco, health insurance companies in the US refused to cover the cost of oral contraceptive pills. But when Viagra, a drug indicated for use by men with erectal problems, was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, "almost to the minute," Dr. Stewart said, the same companies announced that they would pay for the cost of Viagra treatments.

Women's groups did not let this patent form of discrimination pass without protest. Citing what Dr. Stewart calls "contraceptive parity," the women's groups successfully lobbied for insurance coverage for contraception, on grounds that if men's erectal problems were a legitimate health need, then so was women's need for protection against unwanted pregnancy.

But why is it that the health and insurance establishment can so readily empathize with men's need for a satisfying—and prolonged—sex life, while ignoring men's and women's need and desire to exercise responsibility over their reproductive lives?

This same scenario could very well apply to the alacrity with which our Bureau of Food and Drugs, with the encouragement of the Department of Health, de-listed Postinor, a "dedicated" emergency contraceptive pill, wholly buying the grounds of "Abay Pamilya" that Postinor is an abortifacient.

The importation and distribution of Postinor, it must be noted, was allowed by former Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez on a limited basis for use by women's desks of government hospitals to help women survivors of rape, incest and other forms of violence. It's therefore quite scandalous that in deciding to "de-list" Postinor, the DOH and the BFAD didn't even see fit to consult the target users—women's groups, crisis centers, and women survivors of violence.

* * *

VIAGRA, by the way, was approved for use and distribution here in the Philippines a few years ago without too much fuss by the BFAD. It was a development greeted with much fanfare by the media (this paper even ran a front-page series on it), with few questions raised about its safety and efficacy. This, even if Viagra was found to have caused the deaths of some elderly men in the US and Britain.

The issues surrounding Postinor and emergency contraception, meanwhile, have received only limited media coverage. As has contraception and family planning as a whole, with the media paying attention to the issue only when the Catholic bishops or conservative anti-choice groups attack the government or the "fornicators" in our midst.

(I must ask at this point: Doesn't a high population growth rate indicate that there are many—millions, in fact—Filipino couples engaging in unprotected—and protected—sex? Aren't they the "fornicators" condemned by Abay Pamilya and like groups? And wouldn't that include our dear President who has boasted of enjoying "plenty" of sex in her time?)

* * *

BUT where was I? Oh yes, Viagra and Postinor.

What the contrasting attitudes of licensing and regulating agencies regarding the two drugs show us is that, despite the sexual revolution and our "post-feminist" scene, society still uses a double standard on men's and women's sexuality.

Men's exercise and enjoyment of their sexuality is tolerated, no, encouraged, from an early age. Though we may pay lip service to notions of monogamy and fidelity, men's sexual transgressions aren't subject to the same damning condemnation as a woman's infidelity would be. And when a man is having difficulty getting it up, he receives instant sympathy and compassion. No wonder a pill that promises unending sexual proclivity for men is greeted like it was best thing since white bread. Men need and deserve good sex throughout their lives, but women deserving and demanding sexual pleasure until well after menopause?

I once asked in this space: If emergency contraception is as old as the pill, then why was it only recently that women found out about it? One of the reasons suggested is that doctors didn't want to tell women, refusing to grant them the power to prevent a pregnancy after having unprotected sex or the failure of protection.

But if an elderly man went to his doctor complaining of sexual dysfunction, would not his doctor suggest Viagra to him, with the doctor feeling no compulsion to substitute his moral judgment for his patient's? Then why do doctors feel so free to impose their own beliefs and morals on their women patients? Why do they require a husband's consent before performing a tubal ligation? Why do some refuse to impart advice on contraception, save for so-called natural family planning? And why don't they all routinely inform their clients about emergency contraception as a back-up when and if they should have unplanned sex or their usual method fails? Why not, indeed?

* * *

NEW YORK Times columnist Maureen Dowd writes about a recent visit to Saudi Arabia, noting the irony of a society in which women are required to walk around in long, dark heavy robes while the malls are lined with shops displaying all sorts of revealing underwear.

From the Sex Bomb Girls to Maui Taylor to FHM, Philippine society has shown its "appreciation" for women's sexuality. The problem is that it seems we're comfortable with female sexuality only on men's terms. Which is why we can tolerate a bold starlet posing in a bikini while on a flyover, but muster moral outrage and state power at the possibility of women controlling the consequences of their own sexuality. We might well be living in Saudi, clad in our Victoria's Secret undies but required to walk around beneath a burqa.

Iloilo: Once more with feeling

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

WHAT isn't clear about Iloilo is its lack of aggressiveness in marketing its natural and man-made attractions. It's got the 1786 coral stone Miagao Church that's listed as World Heritage. (I promise not to go into the latest disaster wrought on the structure; it's too tedious. The authorities concerned should just have told Unesco earlier that they weren't interested if the listing would curtail their "freedom of expression" or perhaps ownership and saved architect Augusto Villalon the bother.) Aside from Miagao, they also have the frieze of the San Joaquin Church, the Battle of Tetuan, an absolutely stunning carving although parish records were burnt during the war, thus preventing us from knowing who the Filipino carvers were. Countless so-called "restoration" jobs have also befallen it.

Despite the many and continuing vicissitudes undergone by poor Miagao (the convent and church were put to the torch by revolutionaries in 1898 and again during the Philippine-American War and used as the headquarters and barracks during the Japanese occupation of Panay; then it met several parish priests and the National Historical Institute), the stunning façade has retained its enchanting blend of elaborately carved vegetation. (For interiors try the Opus Dei chapels if you like yours elaborate or the Seventh Day Adventists if you don't.)

San Joaquin, which is also of coral stone, is of a later period. Fr. Tomas Santaren, O.S.A. is believed to be responsible for the construction of the new church on an older foundation (1855-1886). The father provincial at the time was supposed to have asked parish priests "to respect the old structures," a piece of advice the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines should perhaps take to heart if Filipinos are to have anything left of their ecclesiastical heritage.

The question might arise as to whether the frieze on the pediment depicts a Spanish victory over the moors at Tetuan, Morocco. Sure it does—literally—in the same manner that Shakespeare's "The Tragedy of Julius Cesar" is about his assassination by Brutus. There are levels to masterpieces that should be taught and in this particular case, on another level, the carving is about the triumph of good.

Father Santaren also had reason to build the road that cuts across the mountains from San Joaquin to Antique, with his brother Hilario, also an Augustinian. What we now know about the legends of the *datus* who came from Borneo to escape the cruel sultan and founded Panay were recorded by Father Santaren from the stories of the old people of San Joaquin.

The Santo Niño occupies the main niche atop the Augustinian emblem on the façade below the frieze and San Pedro Regalado, oddly enough a Jesuit, occupies one of the niches to the left of the entrance. Regalado Jose (who is named after the saint) theorizes that this was because the saint was born in Valladolid, headquarters of the Augustinians.

Another site worth visiting is the San Joaquin cemetery because of its baroque architecture. Joy Sumagaysay of the University of the Philippines in the Visayas is writing her thesis on the architecture of cemetery chapels in Iloilo. Like our churches, they are worthy as well of preservation.

On the side of the church are the ruins of a once large stone convent that was burned down by the guerrillas to prevent the Japanese from using it. There is a large well and the remains of the stone stables. The ruins are almost totally covered by vegetation so that it is impossible to imagine what the complex was like. An old photograph shows a huge plaza, now bisected by a main road and several government buildings.

Next door to Iloilo is Capiz and the town of Pan-ay which boasts of the largest bell tower in the whole of Asia. It is 7 feet in diameter and 7 feet in height and weighs 23,000 pounds. It was cast by Juan Reino in situ from 70 bags of coins donated by the townspeople and hangs from the belfry together with eight other smaller bells. Once upon a time when life was quiet, its tolling could be heard as far as eight kilometers away. On the bell is the following inscription: *"Soy la voz de Dios que llevare/y ensalzare./Desde el principio hasta el fin de este/pueblo de Panay para que los/fieles de/Jesucristo vengan a esta casa/de Dios a recibir las gracias celestials./Panay 21 de Diciembre de 1878. Fr. Jose Beloso.* (I am the voice of God that shall ring and proclaim from the center to the farthest limits of this town of Panay so that the faithful of Jesus Christ will come to this house to receive the heavenly graces.)"

An apocryphal story recounts that the caster, Juan Reino, was a dentist who had established a foundry on Iloilo's Basa Street in 1868. When he first cast the bell, it cracked. Reino refused to recast it for free. This angered the bishop who sent a circular banning the use of Reino and his foundry. Unfortunately the bishop had to have a tooth pulled and there was no other dentist but Reino who forthwith asked him just before he applied his pliers whether there were any jobs for him. After that Reino had no more problems!

The parish was established in 1580 but the church of coral stones was not completed until 1771. In this case, the names of the town's leading sculptors have been recorded for posterity: Maestro Joseph Bengaro and Sarhento Itok.

Maybe

YOUNG BLOOD

Noel M. Mamiit

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT is two hours past midnight. I am listening to one of six music CDs. The soothing voice of Johnny Mathis later gives way to the duet of Lea Salonga and Brad Kane. Not exactly the tunes that kept me awake at night when I was writing my thesis.

After finishing my graduate studies, I figured that I'd have more quiet moments like this, far from the glitzy lights of the financial district.

I used to love the silence and solitude. The occasional weekend jaunts way down south turned my car into a sanctuary. I used bike rides in the moonlight to soothe me, contrary to their original purpose of being part of an exercise regimen. Sometimes I wished for a night without electricity, because it is only then that I could truly appreciate the splendor of the night sky, unassisted by street lamps. Add to that a full moon, and I would have the ambience perfect for meditation, not to mention a stroll in the park.

The beauty of walking alone, in silence, is that the world around you is reduced to a myriad of images and sounds. You are trapped in your own world of fantasy and adventure, of triumph and tragedy, of majesty and love. Destiny is at your mercy.

While I will never have complete control over my fate, at least I still daydream like a kid. Sometimes I see myself making mincemeat of Tiger Woods, or playing the saxophone in front of a hundred thousand people. Every night, before I sleep, I imagine a world without pollution and taxes, where pedestrians and motorists respect each other, where the word "maybe" does not mean "maybe." I long for utopia and happiness.

Happiness is like doing a favor under a tree. Happiness can be compared to eating in a far-flung branch of Pancake House just for the fun of it. It is cruising around with relaxing music, or purchasing a "Moulin Rouge" VCD. Happiness lights up the eyes like you have just seen your first snowfall. Happiness is enjoying the simple pleasures of life.

Maybe happiness is perfection personified or a pleasant dream come true. Once you find your happiness, you take care of it, you protect it, you stay true to it. And hold on to it for as long as possible.

However, the euphoria can be fleeting. One can be struck with bitterness after a reality check. Pessimism drowns simplistic and moral thinking. Insomnia or amnesia become daily staples. At this point, the country's budget deficit and your growing waistline become the least of your problems. The silence is unbearable, but the noise is much more agonizing. Music is taboo.

This is the pain of losing happiness. Suffering and confusion howl with glee at the sidelines, waiting to add another soul to an ever-growing list of fatalities. My strength is sapped by depression, and my mind is in turmoil. Happiness is simply no longer there.

How I envy the Vulcans of "Star Trek," who have complete mastery over their emotions, and use cold logic and meditation to control their personalities. Sometimes I wish I could kill all my emotions with a flick of a switch.

A few years ago a friend of mine said, "You have to feel the pain in order to completely heal." How much then should you torture yourself in the name of mercy? Is this the conclusion of endless experiments of the human psyche, or just a result of society's dictates?

Cooking and writing have somehow become therapy, although I still shed tears whenever I slice onions. Now I have some spare time to do these—my friends include a note pad and a kitchen knife with a yellow handle. Days earlier, I wrote a couple of poems at two in the morning (I have since given them away). The next thing I knew, I was preparing onion soup and garden salad with vinaigrette, a nice, recuperative meal.

Another friend told me that I should look for my happiness. But where exactly can it be found? Do we have the same definitions of and experiences with happiness? Is happiness universal, or just a personal state of mind? The question is kind of philosophical: education, goals, economic needs, even faith, skew the perception of what could be the most sought-after emotion in the universe.

The desire to be financially secure compels me to keep on trying new activities, but the thought that the ultimate happiness will one day come back is what drives me to keep hoping. But waiting for happiness to come back may be futile. The hope that lights up the dark may just be a firefly in the last stages of its life.

Nevertheless, that glimmer of hope is still a powerful ally. It is a complement to happiness and contentment. It is a gift used to shoot for the stars—a tonic, if you will. The psychological boost is like hitting the game-winning shot. The energy that emanates from the hope is what allows me to plod on. It will power me as I search for my own Holy Grail. Whether I will succeed in finding happiness or not is anybody's guess. Just maybe.

Although this may not be an original recipe, I discovered that vinaigrette spiked with a spoonful or two of orange juice can be a source of happiness.

Noel M. Mamiit, 26, has just finished his MBA at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business.

THEY SAID

Feeding terrorism

"If we neglect the economic imperative at this time when we are so concerned with terrorism we will be feeding terrorism by promoting hunger, disease and ignorance."

—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said during an Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum

Staying put

"It is not an affront against the President if I graciously turn down calls for my resignation. Staying put is a matter of respect, dignity and honor."

—Public Estates Authority director Rodolfo Tuazon, on his refusal to give up his post despite calls from the Malacanung Palace

Patriotic act

"The acquisition by the GSIS of the Juan Luna painting is a noble act of patriotism and should be appreciated not only by art lovers but by every Filipino who loves his country."

—Former Education Secretary Raul Roco

Gambling with our people's health

WE are outraged by the actions of our public officials who do not seem to take seriously the horrible quality of Metro Manila's air. Are they not convinced it is one of the worst in the world as reported by the World Health Organization? Do they not believe the statistics of the Department of Health which show an alarming increase in respiratory diseases?

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza recently signed a memorandum suspending the accelerated program for vehicles' emission testing. Just before recessing for the All Saints' holidays, the Senate voted to defer the implementation of the Clean Air Act with respect to the reformulation of gasoline that would reduce its toxic contents. The House of Representatives would have followed suit, except for opposition from Rep. Nereus Acosta who also questioned the haste with which the above decisions were made in contrast to the careful, deliberate process that led to the passage of the law.

The Clean Air Act is a landmark piece of legislation that Filipinos can be proud of. After many years of discussion, research and argumentation participated in by all stakeholders, the bill was passed and signed into law in 1999. No one doubted that it would be difficult but everyone agreed that we had to bite the bullet if we were to start turning things around.

All sectors involved have been sufficiently warned and most have prepared for the inevitable. The necessary instruments for testing and monitoring have been imported. The manpower has been trained. The partnership for clean air which is composed of civil society, academe, media and business, including the oil and transport industries, has prepared an action plan for information, education, implementation, coordination, monitoring. etc. Psychologically and otherwise, society is prepared for the sacrifices needed.

How could Mendoza and Congress undo all this work with hardly any consultation, much less public hearings?

The hasty decisions are said to have been prompted by the crisis the country is facing. But when has the country not been in crisis in the last half century? If we do not make clean air a priority, the situation will continue to worsen with our population getting sicker and less productive. The economy will be saddled with bigger demands for public health.

We demand that the decisions of Mendoza and the Senate be rescinded. We demand that the Clean Air Act be implemented as scheduled. We say to our public officials: Stop poisoning the air! Do not gamble with our people's health!

—ANGELINA P. GALANG, executive director, Environmental Education Network of the Philippines, WITH 34 OTHERS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Those degrading noontime shows

I WAS a bit reluctant to write this letter but I just couldn't let the opportunity pass to let you know how disappointed I am by what is going on in our noontime shows.

I pity the girls who expose their bodies for all the people to see. I don't know if they enjoy what they are doing but one thing is sure: they are there for the money and the ambition of getting where they want to go!

My heart bleeds for the people who join these game shows and do things that are so demeaning. *Kawawa naman.* Being exploited by the producers is one thing, but being degraded is unforgivable and, worse, *kapwa Pilipino ang gumagawa nito sa kanila!*. For a thousand pesos, *talo pa natin si Judas*! The girls sell their bodies and men sell their self-respect and dignity for money!

We cannot deny that we need money to survive. *Sana naman* our producers will be compassionate and sincere in helping others. *Bastos na bastos na po talaga*!

**—LITA F. DOROMAL,
St. Martha's Day Care
and Tutorial Center,
266 Circle A St., Ecoland,
Matina, Davao City**

Extortion in Parañaque village

IT is well that Parañaque Rep. Ed Zialcita has experienced the daily predicament many of his constituents face at the hands of security guards of Multinational Village. Now he has first-hand knowledge about the extortion being committed by these guards against motorists and residents.

But I insist that the officers of the Multinational Village Homeowners Association (MVHAI) be pinned down as the culprits behind these activities of the security guards in their hire. The MVHAI has threatened to file charges against the lawmaker. With the revenue from the motorists' fees, it has reportedly hired a battery of good lawyers to legitimize their abuses. They have reportedly neutralized Mayor Joey Marquez and other officials of Parañaque City through legal actions.

But public convenience cannot be compromised. The public interest is far more important than the selfish agenda of these village officials.

The affected residents and motorists are behind Zialcita who merely did what was right. Regardless of the policy formulated by the homeowners association, the mulcting is immoral and exploitative. Why should motorists be charged P20 for "passing through" Kaingin Road, which was specifically built as the only alternative to the main thoroughfare built by the developer, Mike Velarde.

And why should delivery vans be charged P200 (sources say even P300)? This is extortion, plain and simple.

It's really time all motorists, taxi, tricycle and delivery drivers, and specially residents and other victims rallied behind Zialcita to put an end to the excesses and tyranny of the Multinational Homeowners Association and its uniformed goons.

—JOE MARQUEZ, Sto. Nino, Parañaque City

Two images of a sleeping Christ Child

THERE is some confusion in published reports relating to the figure of Jesus that has disappeared from a National Museum exhibit. May I clarify the fuzzy details, as follows:

1. The "Nino Dormido" (Sleeping Infant Jesus) that was bought at a London auction is an ivory figure in an ornate silver filigree four-poster bed within its original glass viriña. According to the auction catalogue, the object was "taken" during the siege of Manila in 1762. As far as I know, it has never left the Bangko Sentral. I saw it there not too long ago, as beautiful and in as good condition as ever.

2. The missing object belongs to me personally. It is also an ivory "Nino Dormido," slightly larger than that of the Bangko Sentral but of a later date: 19th century.

INQUIRER reporter Chris Esguerra called me after the story first appeared and asked for my reaction. Since there was no insurance and all that the National Museum could say was "Sorry," I joked, "*E ano pa kundi umiyak.*" Seriously, I said that obviously potential donors and lenders are likely to be discouraged by the burglary, but I understand that the National Museum has tightened up on its security and is doing all it can to recover the object.

**—JAIME C. LAYA, 22/F
Philamlife Tower,
Paseo de Roxas,
Makati City**

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

What citizens can do to fight crime

TO help in the campaign against holdups and bombings, the government has urged the public to be vigilant and to serve as its eyes and ears. What specifically can the ordinary citizen do?

Consider a recent holdup inside an FX taxi on Quezon Bridge going toward Manila City Hall. Two knife-wielding passengers divested everyone of cash and other valuables and then got off and walked toward Intramuros. The report did not say what happened afterwards.

What could the victims have done under the circumstances? Certainly, they could not have fought the holdup men inside the van, but they could have raised an alarm later (or did they?) so that the police or other people in the area could have responded.

It is the relative ease with which the criminals walk away from the scene of the crime without being pursued or apprehension by law enforcers that emboldens crooks and demoralizes the rest of the population.

Will it help if drivers and other citizens carry whistles for use in an emergency?

Can the PNP not field more foot patrols in sensitive areas? The usual excuse is shortage of personnel. It becomes then a matter of maximizing the use of available resources. Are not foot patrols more effective in maintaining peace and order?

Of course, these patrol assignments seem menial and do not look as glamorous as riding in patrol cars or motorcycles or as cozy as office work. To be effective, foot patrols would have to really walk and monitor their beat. Obviously, this requires dedicated and disciplined policemen and of course proper incentives.

It would be ill-advised to redeploy secret marshals with the license to shoot lawbreakers on the spot, as some people suggest. The risk of grave abuse is great. There may not be enough policemen to accompany public vehicles, and it is imprudent to arm *barangay tanods* without first giving them adequate training.

Of course, the public with their ubiquitous cell phones can call 117 and other emergency lines to report crimes. But there must be no overreaction. The holdups and bombings in some parts of Metro Manila and Mindanao should be dealt with vigorously. But we must not lose perspective.

The sages tell us of the dark forces and the necessity of unceasing struggle if reason and justice are to prevail against them. If the decent elements of society and the authorities are supportive of each other and meet every crisis with quiet resolve and effective measures, the nation will be able to overcome these problems.

**—ANTONIO A. AGUSTIN,
Faculty of Law, MLQ University,
Quiapo, Manila**

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'Lola' and child survival

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

AN ENTIRE research conference about grandmothers? It seems there was such a meeting, according to an article by Natalie Angier in the Nov. 5 issue of the New York Times.

Angier gives tantalizing details of some of the research findings but does not actually state where and when the conference was held. I did try several search engines on the Internet to get more information about the meeting but had no luck, so I'm relying on Angier's article, with some of my own thoughts about the topic.

What is so intriguing about Angier's article is that it focuses on the research looking into the relationship between grandmothers and child survival rates. Such research has been conducted by anthropologists using records from Gambia, India and Japan.

Readers can probably guess the results: the presence of a grandmother improved a child's prospects for surviving infancy and childhood. That seems logical since a grandmother augments the parenting role, mainly that of the mother. A grandmother has many more years of accumulated wisdom, having raised her own children, and is now ready to apply all she's learned to her grandchildren.

In many societies where more women are entering the labor force, one can see how crucial the grandmother is for child care. I see this happening in many countries, with grandmothers practically taking over most of the day's child-care activities because the children's mother has to go to work.

In the Philippines, it is quite common to see parents even sending off their children to live with grandparents. Do a quick survey of your friends and I'm sure quite a number will say they were raised by a *lola*, and how they may in fact be more attached to *Lola* than to *Nanay*.

Can we presume then that the presence of a grandmother automatically increases prospects for child survival? Not quite, and this is why Angier's article caught my attention. Angier says two of the papers showed it's the maternal grandmother that makes the difference.

This effect is shown rather dramatically in one study conducted by Donna Leonetti and Dilip Nath in India, where they looked at two ethnic groups, one Bengali, the other Khasi. The two groups are similar in that they're both agricultural, with low incomes and little access to modern family planning methods. But the two groups have one important difference: the Bengali are patrilocal, which means a new bride moves into her husband's household, while the Khasi are matrilocal, with the husband moving into the bride's household.

The researchers found out that among the Bengali, whether the paternal grandmother was present or not, about 86 percent of children would survive to the age of 6. Among Khasi children whose grandmother—the maternal grandmother—had died, only 83 percent survived to the age of 6. In contrast, the survival rate rises dramatically to 96 percent for those whose grandmother was around.

You're probably asking why there is this difference. I guessed the reason even before I got through half the article, and the reason was that only a few weeks back, in one of my graduate classes, one of my Thai students shared an interesting bit of information: in her country, there is a saying that a maternal grandmother always knows who her grandchildren are, while a paternal grandmother can never be sure.

What had gotten her to share that information was my mentioning that for a woman, motherhood is an act of knowledge: she obviously knows who her children are. For men, parenting is an act of faith: he can only believe a child is his. The wise Thais have extended that aphorism to grandmothers.

For some researchers, this difference provides part of the explanation in the differences of child survival. A paternal grandmother may not be as close to her grandchildren, often with tensions wondering if the grandchildren come from her sons. If her relationship with her daughter-in-law is tense—as they often are—the "grandmothering" role may be even more stifled. A maternal grandmother, on the other hand, is certain about who her grandchildren are, and there will be no holds barred when it comes to her affection.

There are anthropologists who will cringe at such an explanation, since it seems to reduce affections to biological kinship. Perhaps a less biologically based explanation is that a woman would find it easier to get help from her own mother (i.e., the child's maternal grandmother) rather than from her mother-in-law. Conversely, a mother has less qualms helping out her own daughter than a mother-in-law would, again because of a perceived distance, or even tension, between in-laws.

So, here we have an example of how child health and child welfare is influenced not just by parents but by an extended system, particularly the *lola*, but this influence is mediated by all kinds of social and cultural considerations.

There are practical implications here. If indeed the *lola* figures so prominently in child care, then government and non-government health agencies should be looking for ways to tap into this valuable resource.

There's more to the *lola* role than child care. Research in other countries has shown that the presence of a mother or mother-in-law may increase fertility: the couple is pressured to reproduce, or may opt to have more children simply because there's an added caregiver.

Our local researchers should be looking into how the *lola* influences family dynamics and child care, and while they're at it, maybe we should be looking too at the roles of the *lolo*, if there's any. The research in other country suggests that the presence of a grandfather, like that of the father, makes no difference in child survival rates. I'd like to see what it's like for the Philippines.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Chief Bali blast suspect linked to Indon cleric

BALI—A top investigator on Monday said the prime suspect in the Bali bombings studied under a detained Muslim cleric believed to be the spiritual head of the group that foreign intelligence services blamed for the attack.

Also Monday, security forces found what they said were two bombs buried in a jungle close to the village where they arrested the prime suspect, who has been identified only as Amrozi. Two other men were detained at the same village.

Police have been trying to establish a link between Amrozi and Abu Bakar Bashir, the alleged spiritual leader of the Jemaah Islamiah organization, since they arrested Amrozi last week.

Foreign intelligence officials have accused the group, which allegedly has cells throughout Southeast Asia, of carrying out two simultaneous bombings on Bali that killed nearly 200 people on Oct. 12, mostly foreign tourists.

Maj. Gen. I Made Mangku Pastika, the top investigator on the case, said Amrozi had taken religious lessons under Bashir in neighboring Malaysia, where both men were living in the late 1990s.

"Abu Bakar Bashir has many students and one of his students was Amrozi," Pastika told a media conference in Bali.

Pastika also said Bashir founded the Malaysian branch of Jemaah Islamiah, but maintained that the group had no operational cells in Indonesia.

Bashir is currently detained over a series of church bombings in 2000. He has not been named a suspect in the Bali blasts.

In Jakarta, a court on Monday overturned a suit filed by Bashir claiming his arrest was unlawful and ordered his detention to continue. His lawyers said they would appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

Amrozi was arrested last week in Tenggulun village on Java island after detectives traced the vehicle used in the blast to his house there.

Amrozi has admitted owning a minivan that was packed with explosives and blew up outside a packed nightclub on Bali on Oct. 12.

Police have raided dozens of homes in Tenggulun village over the last few days.

On Monday, officers arrested a former forest ranger identified only as Komarudin, said a detective in the village who asked not to be named.

Based on his testimony, they went to a jungle around 5 km from the village, where they unearthed what they said were at least two suspected explosive devices, an Associated Press photographer said. *AP*

BEBASKAN !
UST. ABU BAKAR BA'ASYIR

"Release Bashir," his supporters demand outside a Jakarta court on Nov. 11. AFP

'Amrozi out to avenge US attacks'

DENPASAR—An Indonesian suspected of helping to assemble the Bali nightclub bomb told police he wanted revenge for US attacks on Iraq and Afghanistan, police said Monday.

They described the suspect, Amrozi, as a student of militant Indonesian Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, who is being detained in Jakarta on separate terrorism charges.

The arrest of Amrozi at his home village in east Java last Tuesday was the first breakthrough in the multinational probe into the nightclub blast.

"According to Amrozi, he and his group wanted to kill as many Americans as possible," Maj. Gen. I Made Mangku Pastika, head of the Indonesian investigating team, told a press conference on the resort island.

"He says America is oppressing Islam . . . According to him, America attacked Iraq and Afghanistan and America is not fair in the cases of Palestine and Israel. (But) after he found out that many Australians were killed (instead), he said he was unhappy."

Pastika said 10 people were suspected of carrying out the bombing, all of them Indonesians. There was no evidence so far of foreign involvement.

Asked if the suspects were still in Indonesia, he said: "We are in the process of looking for them in Indonesia because the news came out too fast and they all fled."

The chief investigator said Amrozi had worked in Malaysia "and participated in the sermons conducted by Abu Bakar Bashir, who is one of the founders of Jemaah Islamiah in Malaysia."

Singapore and Malaysia say Bashir, 64, is spiritual leader of JI, which is thought linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. Foreign governments say they suspect JI's role in the Oct. 12 blast but Pastika said there was no evidence of this yet.

He played down speculation that an Indonesian called Hambali, the JI operations chief, had a role in the Bali blast.

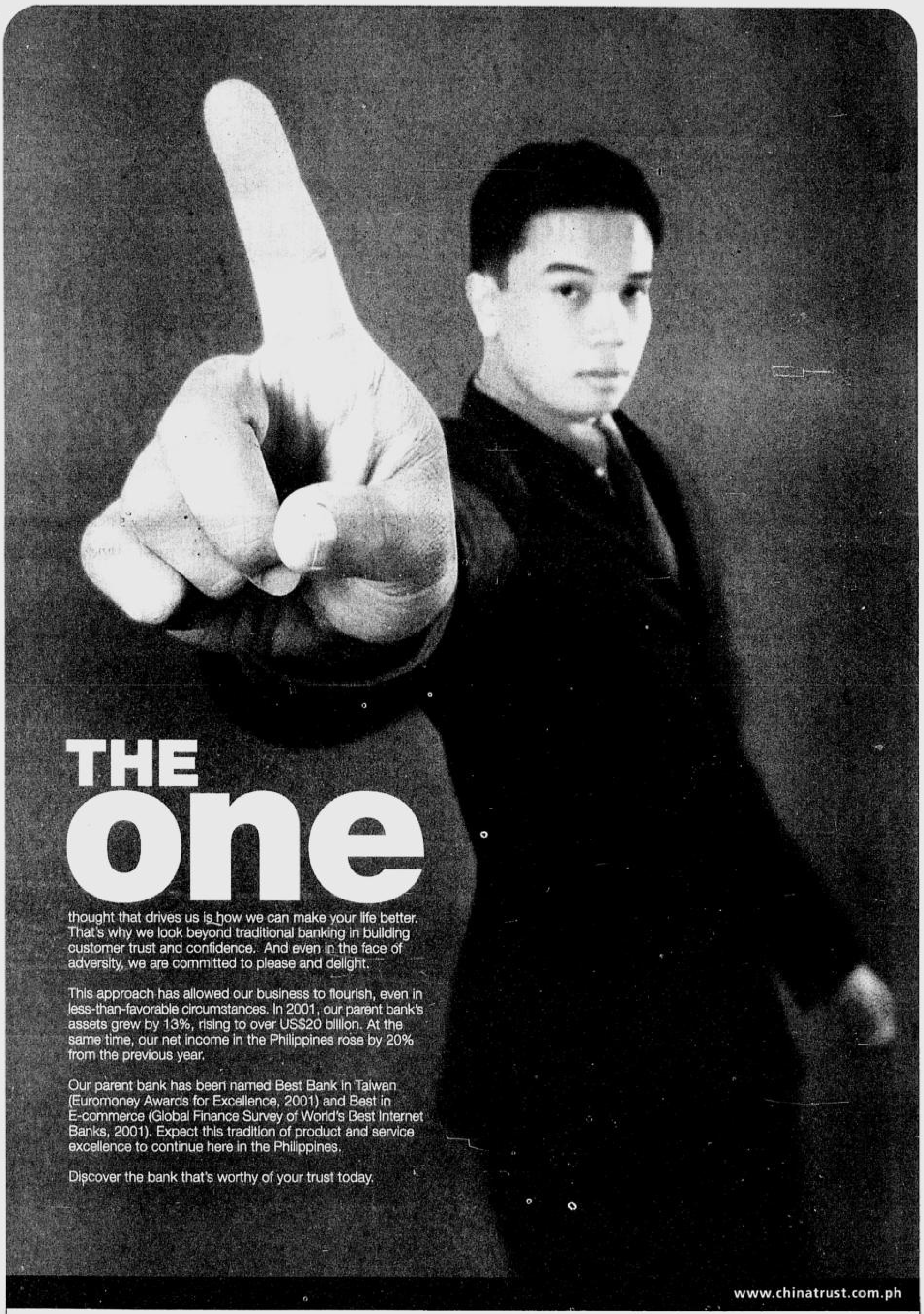
"He (Hambali) has been wanted for a long time. Because of that, there is a large possibility he is overseas, and because of that maybe a relationship between Hambali can't yet be made," Pastika said.

Pastika depicted Amrozi, who is believed to be aged 40, as calm but very militant. He said Amrozi could face the death sentence and that there was "not a single doubt" of his involvement in the bombing.

"He is ready to accept whatever punishment. Therefore it is not easy to get information from him. It should be done slowly," Pastika said.

The suspect stayed silent for the first 40 hours of interrogation, he said.

Pastika estimated the entire cost of the bombing at only around $9,000 and said Amrozi even removed items like seats and the airconditioning system from the Mitsubishi van used in the main blast to minimize the financial loss. *AFP*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5 Israelis slain in kibbutz

Killer escapes in the dark

KIBBUTZ METZER—A Palestinian gunman crawled under a security fence at this communal farm, burst into a home and shot dead a mother and her two children as she was reading them a bedtime story. The rampage left five Israelis dead and the killer vanished in the dark.

Terrified residents at Kibbutz Metzer spent the night huddled in their homes, fearful the gunman was still among them. By daybreak Monday, Israeli security forces said the attacker had fled, apparently to the nearby West Bank, about a kilometer away.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a militant group loosely affiliated with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for the attack.

The attack raised tensions and expectations of Israeli retaliation in advance of a visit this week by US envoy David Satterfield, who plans to discuss a US-backed plan aimed at restarting Mideast peace negotiations.

The shooting rampage began just before midnight Sunday several hours after a car exploded near the farm, killing its two Palestinian occupants in what police believed was a failed suicide bombing. "We have a mother and her two children . . . who are no longer with us, and they are victims of a war that has no end," Doron Lieber, a member of the farming community, told Israel Radio.

After going under the fence, the gunman reached the center of the community and entered a house where the lights were on, Lieber said.

He shot dead Revital Ohion, 34, and her two sons, Noam, 4, and Matan, 5. She was reading a bedtime story to her children when she first heard shots, which led her to call her ex-husband, Avi Ohion, relatives said.

He heard the shots on the phone, and later collapsed in tears when he learned they had been killed, the relatives said.

"There are no words to describe this," said Roni Cohen, the children's uncle. "We can't get over this. How can we?"

The gunman left the house and continued in the direction of the communal dining room where he met a couple taking a walk, Lieber said. He shot and killed the woman, while the man managed to flee. Another kibbutz resident drove up in his car and was killed by the gunman, Lieber said.

After Israeli security forces allowed kibbutz residents out of their homes Monday morning, they gathered in the community's streets, crying and comforting one another.

A bullet hole had pierced the wooden door to the single-story stucco house which had been attacked. On the porch were bikes, a rabbit, a bird cage and posters of the two boys who were killed, one of them shown strumming a guitar.

In the afternoon village elders from nearby Israeli-Arab communities arrived in the kibbutz for a condolence visit.

The attack marked a rare instance in which a Palestinian gunmen has been able to carry out an attack on a guarded community and escape without being killed himself.

Kibbutz Metzer is inside Israel proper, but is just across the border with northern West Bank, where many Palestinian attackers have come from.

Members of the dovish community said they have had close relations with their Arab neighbors and support the establishment of a Palestinian state.

"We still have good relations (with the Arabs)," said Lieber, upset at reporters who asked him about local security arrangements. *AP*

PALESTINIANS look through the door of a metal workshop that was destroyed in a rocket attack by Israeli helicopters in Gaza City on Nov. 11. AP

US jets bomb Iraq

ABOARD THE USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN—US warplanes flying off an aircraft carrier in the Gulf struck targets in southern Iraq, the US military said Monday.

The attack took place Sunday from fighter jets patrolling the no-fly zone in southern Iraq, Capt. Kendall L. Card, the commander of the USS Abraham Lincoln, told crew in announcement over the ship's public address system. He did not provide any details of the attack.

The US Central Command said in a statement on its website that coalition aircraft used precision-guided weapons to target two surface-to-air missile sites near Talil, 280 km southeast of Baghdad, in response to Iraqi hostile acts. There was no word from Baghdad on the strike.

The Central Command said damage assessment was ongoing. The air strike came after Iraq moved the missiles into the no-fly zone, the statement said.

Iraq considers allied air patrols, set up to protect Shiite Muslims in the south and Kurds in the north, a violation of its sovereignty and frequently shoots at US and British aircraft. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Kashmiri separatist leader freed

NEW DELHI—Kashmir's top separatist leader Yasin Malik was freed from prison Monday, eight months after he was arrested for allegedly laundering money to finance terrorism, a security official said Monday. Malik, a former militant leader whose Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front is now a separatist political party, was freed from the Kot Bhalwal prison outside Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu-Kashmir state. He was set to fly back to the state's summer capital, Srinagar, the security official told The Associated Press by telephone. Malik is one of the seven key decision-makers of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, the main Kashmiri separatist alliance. The release of Malik, an icon to thousands of Kashmiri youths, comes soon after the installation of a new government in Jammu-Kashmir, the heartland of a 12-year Islamic insurgency and a territorial dispute between India and Pakistan. *AP*

Corruption in China

BEIJING—Corruption in China remains a major problem, a top Chinese leader has told the current Communist Party Congress, warning cadres "high or low" that they risk severe penalties for graft, state media said Monday. Graft was still a "severe" problem around the country despite years of efforts, the country's No. 6 leader Wei Jianxing told Congress delegates, according to the official China Daily newspaper. "We should also see clearly that anti-corruption situation remains severe," Wei told a side meeting of delegates from the prosperous eastern province of Zhejiang. Wei, 71, who is thought to be among a group of elderly leaders standing down from their party posts at the Congress, said China's two decades of economic opening up had played a role in spreading graft. *AFP*

Karaoke conference

BEIJING—Delegates to China's pivotal leadership handover don't always pore over communist ideology when they huddle in small groups to discuss the weighty matter of the country's future. To pass time before a long afternoon meeting, officials from the wealthy southeastern province of Zhejiang turned a staid conference room in the hallowed Great Hall of the People into an impromptu karaoke parlor, complete with off-key warbling. Chen Meilan, a dewy skinned starlet as well as a delegate, led off with a few bars of a regional opera before passing the microphone to Zhejiang party boss Zhang Dejiang, who dazzled the crowd with a solo from a famous opera about China's civil war. Thunderous applause for Zhang's unaccompanied vocal acrobatics dissolved into muffled giggles when an eager male delegate launched into the children's alphabet song "ABC." Even then, he was struggling for the letters. *Reuters*

No jail for youngest son

SEOUL—The youngest son of South Korean President Kim Dae-jung received a suspended sentence and a fine Monday after admitting that he took bribes from businessmen, court authorities said. Kim Hong-gul, 38, was convicted of accepting bribes and evading taxes. The Seoul District Criminal Court placed him on probation for three years, rejecting the prosecution's request for a four-year jail sentence. It also fined Kim Hong-gul $164,000. The verdict came after Kim Hong-Gul submitted his final written statement regretting his wrongdoing. "I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised by the people," he said, quoting Psalm 22:6 in the Old Testament. He was indicted in June for taking bribes from corporations seeking business favors. His 53-year-old brother, Kim Hong-up, was sentenced to three and a half years in prison on Nov. 1 for accepting millions of dollars from businessmen through influence peddling. *AFP*

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US tornadoes kill 16

CLARKSVILLE—Devastating tornadoes ripped through the states of Alabama, Tennessee and Ohio, killing at least 16 people, trapping others in damaged buildings and leaving thousands without power, authorities said.

The toll late Sunday included at least six deaths in Alabama, five in Tennessee and five in Ohio. Dozens were injured, and authorities expected the number of victims to grow as they pick through the damage scattered across the region.

One of the hardest-hit areas was Mossy Grove, Tennessee, where a tornado touched down at about 10 p.m.

"It's mass destruction, death," said Ken Morgan, an officer in nearby Oliver Springs. "Mossy Grove is destroyed . . . We're just getting bits and pieces right now, but there are several dead and several missing."

Much of the damage was initially believed to be concentrated in Tennessee and Ohio, but reports began to emerge late Sunday that devastating storms had struck Alabama as well. At least six people were killed in the northern part of the state, and at least 26 others were injured.

The storms caused 25 injuries in Tennessee, and at least 21 were injured in Ohio, where a weather spotter saw at least four twisters hit rural northwestern Van Wert County.

Two deaths were reported in the county, including one person who died after being thrown from a car during the storm. Two people were killed and one critically injured when a mobile home overturned, said Sgt. Brad Nelson of the sheriff's office. As the storm moved east, a house collapsed in Seneca County, killing one person inside and injuring two others.

Many homes were destroyed and an undetermined number of people were trapped in damaged buildings, the Van Wert County sheriff's department said. A county hospital worker said several people were being treated.

The storms cut a 160-km swath from Van Wert near the Indiana state line to Port Clinton along Lake Erie. Emergency officials in many northern Ohio counties reported widespread damage to barns, homes and businesses.

Gov. Bob Taft declared a state of emergency in Van Wert and Ottawa counties, though storms downed power lines, closed roads and poured golf ball-sized hail in many areas of the state.

Brian Farris, of Van Wert, said he saw a tornado level a house just outside the city.

"It pulled everything off, set it down, then threw it in a field," he said. "It was on the ground at least a mile." *AP*

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Bishops hope revised policy to end scandal

WASHINGTON—Roman Catholic bishops from across the United States headed into a four-day meeting Monday to adopt a new discipline policy for sexually abusive priests that the prelates hope will end a year of scandal.

Victim advocates and lay reformers, meanwhile, assembled in a hotel across from the gathering to signal their anger with the revisions, which they say could keep molesters in parishes.

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops approved a disciplinary plan when it last met five months ago in Texas. The policy before the group now is a revision negotiated with the Vatican that protects priests' rights and underscores that bishops, not lay people, have the authority to oversee clergy.

Bishops insist the new version maintains their commitment to removing all abusers from Church work, but victims' advocates argue the process will be too cumbersome and secretive.

"We are calling on America's bishops to strengthen, not weaken, the promises they made in Dallas," said David Cerulli, a member of the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests.

Whatever plan is adopted this week will stand for at least two years if it wins Vatican approval. Many prelates expect completion of the policy will ease public pressure for reform.

Bishop Wilton Gregory of Belleville, Illinois, president of the bishops conference, was opening the meeting with a morning address. In the afternoon, representatives of the committee that drafted the policy and another panel formed to enforce the charter were providing updates on their work.

Later in the week, bishops will vote on a spending plan that would allocate nearly $1 million in each of the next two years for addressing abuse. The budget proposal also notes that the bishops conference has spent more than $1 million this year on the crisis.

Advocates plan a candlelight vigil and news conferences to exert some influence over the debate, but their ability to win changes in the plan is limited. *AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, November 12, 2002
32nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Tit 2:1-8, 11-14
Gospel: Lk 17:7-10

Jesus said to his disciple, "Who among you would say to your servant coming in from the fields after plowing or tending sheep: 'Come at once and sit down at table?' No, you tell him: 'Prepare my dinner. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink; you can eat and drink afterwards.' Do you thank this servant for doing what you commanded? So for you. When you have done all that you have been told to do, you must say: 'We are no more than servants; we have only done our duty.'"

Commentary

Can we talk about duty where there is true love? Can we say that spouses have duties or mutual obligations? Indeed we could. But we feel such language is inadequate. What is done for love, it is done with pleasure, even though difficult and hard. This can also be said about our relationship with God. Do we have any merits or rights before Him? Nothing of that sort. What we have and what we are, we have received as pure grace. Life, freedom, love. All is grace. That is why in Christian life it is better to talk about thanksgiving than about duties. We don't act out of obligation but out of grateful love for the God who has loved us and loves us so much.

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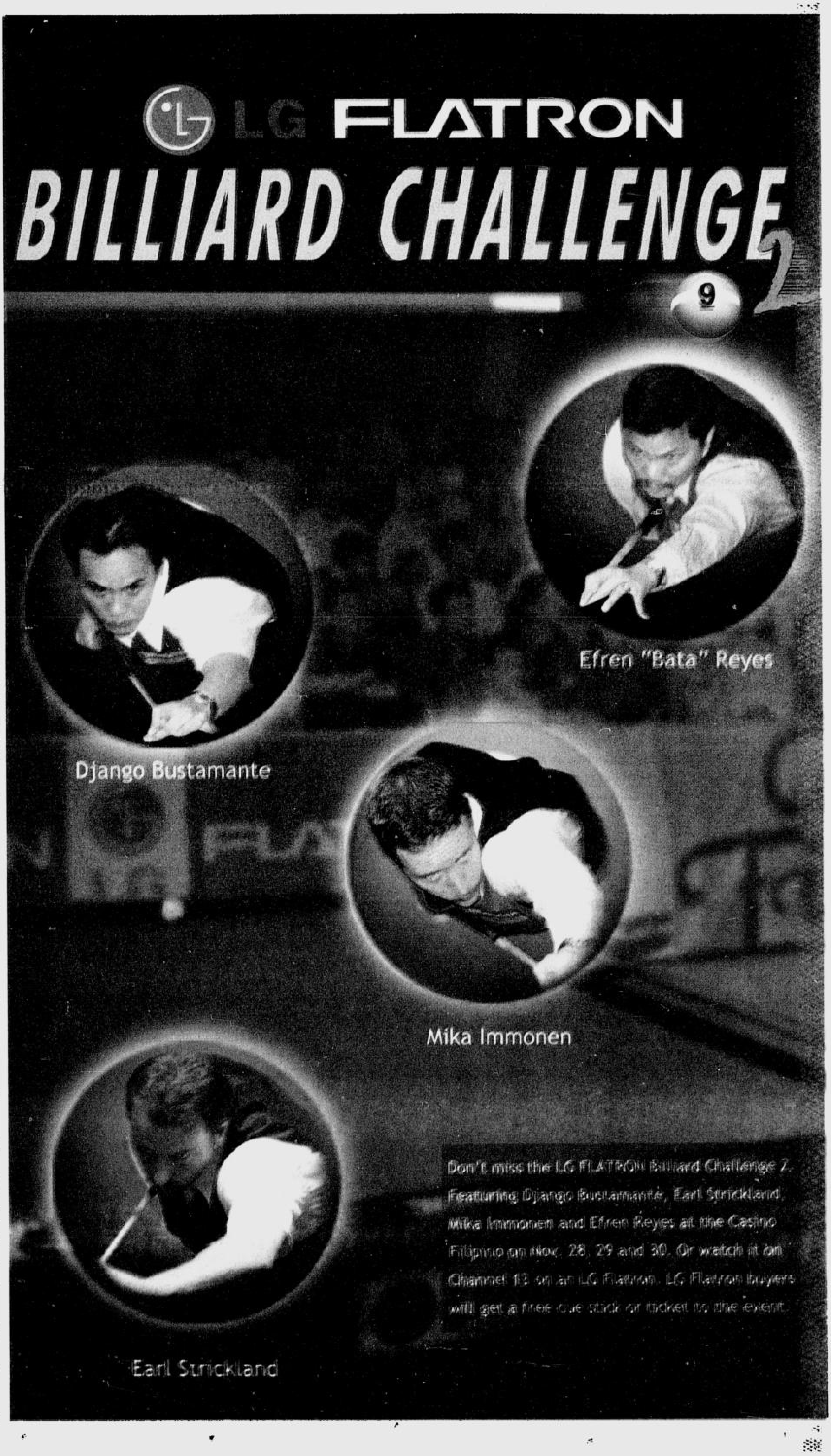
SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Probative value of DNA evidence—In assessing the probative value of DNA evidence, courts should consider, among other things, the following data: how the samples were collected, how they were handled, the possibility of contamination of the samples, the procedure followed in analyzing the samples, whether the proper standards and procedures were followed in conducting the tests, and the qualification of the analyst who conducted the tests. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Per Curiam, People v. Vallejo, G. R. No. 144656, May 9, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA



Don't miss the LG FLATRON Billiard Challenge 2. Featuring Django Bustamante, Earl Strickland, Mika Immonem and Efren Reyes at the Casino Filipino on Nov. 28, 29 and 30. Or watch it on Channel 13 on an LG Flatron. LG Flatron buyers will get a free cue stick or ticket to the event.

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So The People May Know

The Maysilo Land Titling Irregularities

'The Mother of All Land Titling Scams'

"The mother of all land titling scams" as the late Senate President and Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan once called it, is continuing to make a mockery of the Torrens system of land title registration in this country.

Vicious, sinister forces are at work for a long time now, securing and selling "new titles" which overlap hundreds of legitimate titles issued decades ago covering the same parcels of land in the old Maysilo Estate.

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

Involved are large and small chunks of land and property, comprising about half of Caloocan City and Malabon combined, and a portion of western Quezon City near the Balintawak Cloverleaf. Therefore, the homeowners, the businessmen and the middle-class most of whom do not even know they're in one big trouble. And the so-called common people – they who, realizing the common dream of owning their own homes – will have to struggle all over again, once the land-grabbers are done with them. All of them, including the government, are the aggrieved victims. Public land and government infrastructure in danger of being grabbed include the magnificent monument of Gat Andres Bonifacio, government buildings, public parks, public markets, highways and roads, schools and housing projects.

THE ISSUE: A WARNING TO THE PUBLIC

Are there two Original Certificates of Title (OCT) No. 994, covering a portion of the old Maysilo Estate, one issued by the registry of deeds on May 3, 1917, and another issued on April 19, 1917?

The issue involves public interest and welfare. It seriously undermines a person's basic right to property under the Constitution – yes, in this time of economic difficulties, the right to one's very sustenance and life! The issue, therefore, cries out for public outrage and the widest exposure beyond the confines of courtrooms and the august halls of the High Court. For even as people read this supplement, dubious titles are being peddled to gullible buyers – and the not so gullible co-conspirators. So, a warning to the public: Check out a portion of the transfer certificate of title (TCT) being offered. It matter-of-factly states: "It is further certified that said land was originally registered as Original Certificate of Title No. 994, pursuant to Decree No. 36455 issued in Land Registration Court on April 19, 1917." These titles are fraudulent. They will not award you lands and property, or buy you peace of mind!

WHAT'S THE TRUTH?

The Department of Justice and the Senate of the Philippines, the Court of Appeals, and a Regional Trial Court Branch in Caloocan City, have found that there is in fact only one OCT No. 994 in the Maysilo Estate and it was issued on May 3, 1917. Their conclusion: OCT No. 994 supposedly issued on April 19, 1917 is "non-existent and a fabrication." And the spurious document came about because of erroneous or falsified certificate issued by former Deputy Registrar of Deeds of Caloocan City Norberto Vasquez Jr., in connivance with the Registrar of Deeds Yolanda O.Alfonso. The DOJ report was submitted in 1997, while that of the Senate in 1998.

The Court of Appeals ruling was handed down in Phil-Ville Development & Housing Corp. vs. Bonifacio, et. al. only last month. In 2000, the Regional Trial Court decision ordered the cancellation of 22 fraudulent transfer certificates of title of one Lilia D. Sevilla. Her titles were allegedly derived from OCT 994 issued or registered on April 17, 1917. The Court thus stressed, "Vicious fraud was maliciously done" to other trial courts, the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court in previous cases which these courts decided on the basis of a"non-existent OCT 994 issued or registered on April 19, 1917."

Now the Supreme Court must do its sacred, monumental share in the pursuit of justice – by bombarding what the Court of Appeals called the Maysilo Estate Controvery "a malevolent, evil tree" to nothingness, forever! For the Supreme Court was misled in 1992 into affirming that there were two OCT 994s and upholding the superiority and validity of OCT 994 purportedly issued on April 19, 1917, for the same parcels of land. As a result, the 2,000 sq.m. compound of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) on Samson Road, Caloocan City was taken over by the heirs of one "Attorney" Jose B. Dimson. His titles came from a non-existent, fraudulent, polluted source: OCT 994 issued on April 19, 1917.

Since 1992, merchants are selling "titles" derived from "OCT No. 994 issued on April 19, 1917." In other words, they are invoking the Supreme Court ruling in the Dimson-MWSS case that the valid OCT No. 994 is the one issued on April 19, 1917, and not the OCT No. 994 issued on May 3, 1917. Their buyers or co-conspirators, with their "new titles" are now swooping down on befuddled legitimate land owners to divest them of precious property.

WHAT THE ORIGINAL RECORDS SHOW

The original copies of Decree No. 36455 and OCT No. 994 issued on May 3, 1917 which sprang from it, are on file at the Land Registration Authority for safekeeping. They embody three important dates.

These documents which are public records, show that Associate Judge Norberto Romualdez of the then Land Registration Court rendered the decision dated December 3, 1912, confirming the ownership of the applicants in Land Registration Case No. 4429; that Decree No. 36455 on the ownership of the applicants was issued by the Land Registration Office on April 19, 1917; and that OCT 994 was entered or registered at the registry of deeds on May 3, 1917.

Under the land registration law, it is elementary that the date of transcription or entry at the registry of deeds is the date of registration. Therefore, it is also the date to be placed on the face of the title, in this case, Original Certificate of Title No. 994. (Secs. 41 and 42 of Act 496) "Said certificate of title shall take effect upon the date of entry thereof." (Sec. 40, Chapter IV, Presidential Decree No. 1529)

DOJ AND SENATE FINDINGS

The Department of Justice through a fact-finding committee and the Senate Committees on Justice and Human Rights and on Urban Planning and Resettlements conducted their respective exhaustive investigations of the Maysilo Estate titling irregularities. In their well-documented reports, both the DOJ and the Senate found irrefutable evidence that there is only one OCT No. 994 with reference to the Maysilo Estate and its date of issuance is May 3, 1917. "The Original Certificate of Title (OCT) No. 994 dated April 19, 1917 is non-existent, a fabrication." Indeed, fraudulent legal fiction must give way to the truth and justice.

Both the Senate and the DOJ found that Registrar Yolanda O. Alfonso and Deputy Registrar of Deeds Vasquez Jr. acted maliciously, fraudulently and in bad faith by issuing certifications and/or written statements to the effect that OCT No. 944 was issued or registered on April 19, 1917 when in truth and in fact it was issued or registered on May 3, 1917. Alfonso was found to have signed the transfer of certificates of title issued in the name of Eleuteria Rivera which bear a wrong date of the registration of OCT No. 944. Malice was evident because she had previously issued certificates of title in the names of other individuals which were derived from OCT No. 994 dated May 3, 1917, and she had in fact questioned the falsity of April 19,1917 as the correct date of the registration of OCT No. 944.

The Senate report was signed by Senate President Fernan, Senators Leticia Ramos-Shahani, Franklin M. Drilon, Edgardo J. Angara, Juan M. Flavier, Freddie N. Webb, Ernesto C. Maceda, and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, now President of the Philippines.

Subsequently, after administrative investigations, the DOJ found Vasquez Jr. guilty of grave misconduct and dishonesty, while the Office of the President found Alfonso, a presidential appointee, guilty of the same malfeasance. Both were dismissed from government service.

BRAZEN DEFIANCE OF DOJ AND SENATE RECOMMENDATIONS

However, a recent development in the titling irregularities is a blatant, outrageous defiance of Senate and DOJ prescriptions to put public officials in charge of land titling on the alert and stop further attacks on the titling system in the vast affected areas.

The Senate and the DOJ have found as clearly fraudulent and illegal the certificates of titles issued to "Lilia D. Sevilla, Jose B. Dimson, Eleuteria Rivera, Estelita Hipolito and CLT Realty Corporation" for overlapping previously registered titles, and strongly recommended to the Office of the Solicitor General to file court action for cancellation of all these fraudulent titles and other subsequent titles derived therefrom so that annotations of lis pendens may be made on them.

The DOJ report asked the Land Registration Authority to make concerned registry officials annotate on the originals of the questioned Maysilo titles a memorandum that the regularity of these titles has been the subject of a verification report forwarded to the Office of the Solicitor General for evaluation and court action. The DOJ also asked that LRA take custody from the Caloocan and Pasig registries of all documents related to the Maysilo controversy. Likewise, LRA was asked to require the registrars of deeds to elevate to it en consulta court orders directing the issuance of titles which overlap with existing titles or any other irregularity in the title ordered to be issued.

All this should have stopped the registry of deeds from further issuing TCTs derived from Maysilo titles which were found by the investigating team to be fraudulent.

But, last year, invoking their "ministerial duty" while developing amnesia in the Maysilo scam, registry of deeds factotums again issued titles which emanated from some of the very titles investigated and found fraudulent by both the Senate and the Department of Justice.

The "new" title-holder, waving titles transferred from the Estelito Hipolito titles, is attempting to oust business establishments and homeowners in Caloocan City. The "newcomer" was blessed by a court order for the registry of deeds to issue titles in his name. Does one still wonder why most people don't trust the courts and the registries of deeds?

Despite the Senate and the DOJ reports and recommendations, with copies furnished the Supreme Court, the evil forces behind land-grabbing, obviously enjoying influential connections and vast resources, instead of slowing down or fading away, clearly appear to be more determined, more relentless now in seeking to wreck havoc on what is left of the badly battered Torrens system.

A VOW TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

We vow to carry on with our fight to uphold our legal rights, the legitimacy of our property and titles, and the priceless legacy of our honor, good name and reputation. Truth is the foundation of justice. The handwriting on the wall is clear. Since the truth has been unraveled, the dispensers of justice cannot do otherwise except to render what is due us. Amid the crisis of public confidence buffeting the ramparts of the judiciary, we will not waver in keeping faith with those judges and justices whose dedication to truth and righteousness has remained a shining mark of their character and humanity. They are determined to listen to their good conscience, pay obeisance to their sworn legal duty, and bend in submission to God's command for them to do justice to their fellowmen. May God bless them! #

The May 3, 1917 Maysilo Group of Landowners and Homeowners

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BOMB SCARE AT CLARK

Farmers stopped from fertilizing crops

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—Even farmers tilling the idle lands inside this former United States military base for some 20 years now have not been spared from the "bomb scare" that has gripped the country.

Albert Alfonso, 58, and Esteban Capulong, 71, both farmers, said Clark Development Corp. (CDC) security personnel had prevented them from bringing in two sacks of "2100" inorganic fertilizers to their farmlands when they tried to enter Clark through its main gate here on Saturday.

"CDC security men told us that our fertilizer could be used for making bombs. They stopped us at the main gate and prevented us from entering," they said.

The farmers, who have been growing various crops here since 1981 when the Americans were still occupying this special economic zone, said the fertilizer was intended for their newly planted *camote* (sweet potato).

"We assured them (CDC security personnel) that we would immediately scatter the fertilizer in the *camote* farm and we asked them to escort us to see for themselves. But they refused," Alfonso, manager of the Cabcom Farmers' Multi-Purpose Cooperative, said.

Capulong said: "All we wanted is to scatter the fertilizer on the *camote* plants but they prevented us from doing so. I told them they might as well shoot me if they think I'll use the fertilizer to make bombs."

Senior Supt. Carmen Trinidad, chief of the CDC security department, admitted to the INQUIRER that inorganic fertilizer, which usually contains ammonium nitrate, is not allowed in this 4,400-hectare former US air base.

"We were instructed to prevent the entry of fertilizer because it has elements that could be used in making bombs. It is a precautionary measure that we need to undertake. We could not afford bombings in Clark," she said.

Trinidad said the order came from Douglas Yballe, CDC vice president for administration and operation.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Yballe for comment.

Trinidad said the farmers should ask for permission from Yballe to bring in inorganic fertilizer to their farms here.

"We understand the concern of the farmers but we're just following instructions. We have to abide by the instructions of our superiors," she said. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Bureau*

Pampanga board torn by 'fake' resolution

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—An alleged fake resolution that confirmed the representation of a board member in the provincial government's awards committee has torn the provincial board.

Resolution No. 327, which supposedly confirmed the election of Board Member Ferdinand Labung to the awards committee, was "illegally obtained," according to two of five board members investigating the case.

The resolution was not in the agenda of the Sept. 9 session when it was supposedly discussed. Neither was it in the Sept. 23 agenda, the officials said Sunday.

Certified true copies of the transcripts of the Sept. 9 and 23 sessions indicated that the election of Labung to the awards committee was not discussed.

However, a copy of the resolution furnished by Board Secretary Luis Rivera to Provincial Treasurer Jovito Sabado showed the concurrence of the board members, except Roseller Guiao, Robert David and Lilia Pineda. The three were then on leave for engagements abroad.

The resolution was attested by Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo and approved by Gov. Manuel Lapid on Sept. 25.

Board Member Cris Garbo, chair of the board's committee on rules, explained that Labung's election to the awards committee was in the "other matters of the agenda."

"By tradition and as per our practice, the other matters in the agenda were approved in next meeting's session. There being no session the following week, the election was approved during the Sept. 23 session," Garbo told the INQUIRER.

"There is no deceit here or attempt to falsify a public document," he said.

Garbo could not tell who sponsored the resolution but Labung claimed it was Garbo.

Labung, reached by phone on Sunday, considered himself a "legitimate member of the awards committee because I acted on the authority of the board."

His first act was to represent the board in the awarding of the winning bid to Right Pak International, a subsidiary of the brewery giant San Miguel Corp. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

LGUs seek power over forest management

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Local officials are asking the national government to grant them authority to manage forests in the province.

They made the move after meeting with local officials from southern Mindanao who lamented their helplessness to stop illegal logging in their areas.

Officials of South Cotabato and Sarangani, in a forum with local executives here, expressed disgust over the move of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources not to involve local governments in managing watershed forests in their provinces.

They said local government participation would check abuses of some DENR personnel managing forest resources. "We are alarmed with our situation, so we are trying to formulate strategies by which we can insist on our authority as local officials," said Mayor George Yabes of Maitum, Sarangani. "We wanted our problem (in Maitum) to gain national attention because we are really helpless," Yabes said, referring to the controversial Zion Farmers-Multi-Purpose Cooperative (Zifamulco) based in Barangay New La Union, whose forest management contract was suspended only after the DENR intervened.

"We wanted that the operations be stopped, but the best we could do was to recommend (for the cancellation of the permit) to the DENR," he said.

The mayors said unscrupulous DENR personnel have used people's organizations as dummies for their logging firms.

"They are taking advantage of the (perceived) ignorance of indigenous peoples," said Yabes, a member of the group that made a study tour of the province this week. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cops bust Pasay-based illegal recruitment syndicate

DARAGA, Albay—A big-time illegal recruitment and drug syndicate based in Pasay City was believed neutralized by police of this town on Saturday following the arrest here of the most wanted person in Pasay and the seizure of 173 passports in his residence.

Armed with an arrest warrant issued by Pasay Regional Trial Court Judge Eleuterio Guerrero, Daraga police arrested Gerry Marinas, 36, in his residence in Barangay Binitayan at 1:30 p.m. Marinas is believed to be a major supplier of shabu in this town.

Police recovered two small sachets of suspected metamphetamine chlorine or shabu, seven sachets with residues of suspected shabu and shabu paraphernalia.

The raiding team was about to leave when they discovered a box containing 173 passports and hundreds of different pictures, which, police said, revealed Marinas' involvement in large-scale illegal recruitment.

Daraga police chief Supt. Genesius Molto said they had previously charged Marinas and a certain Ronald Evangelista of Pasay City for direct assault in September this year.

The management of Hanna Videoke Bar in this town then complained Evangelista on Sept. 26 for unpaid bills.

Responding policemen were dealing with Evangelista when Marinas came to his rescue, aggravating the situation.

Police found a sachet of shabu inside Evangelista's wallet, which was kept inside his underwear. Marinas was freed on P14,000-bail while Evangelista posted a P200,000-bail.

Molto said the behavior of two kept them suspicious so they coordinated with the Pasay City police.

Records from the Pasay City Police Office revealed that the two were at large for drug pushing.

The Daraga police are now preparing charges including drug pushing and illegal recruitment against Marinas while he is expected to be turned over to the Pasay City police early this week.

Molto said he would turn over the seized passports to the Department Of Foreign Affairs office in Legazpi City.

Most of the passports belong to victimized would-be overseas Filipino workers from Pampanga, the Visayas and Mindanao.

Molto wondered why Marinas himself possessed three kinds of passports. During investigation Marinas admitted that he had been to South Korea thrice.

He claimed that the passports were handled by Marinas' sister, Jeanny Marinas Manuel and brother-in-law Virgilio Manuel, both from Legazpi City.

But Molto clarified Jeanny is now in a correctional outside Bicol.

He added that records from the Pasay City Police Office confirmed that Jeanny is also wanted for estafa and large-scale illegal recruitment. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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MEGA SALE

Real Properties Absolutely Forfeited by the Bureau of Internal Revenue

December 2 and December 17

INVITATION TO BID

Under the authority in Section 207 of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), the properties described below have been absolutely forfeited for non-payment of internal revenue taxes due from taxpayers. The properties will be sold at Public Auction Sale, as provided for under Section 216 of the NIRC and related regulations.

All properties listed herewith are owned and titled under the name of the Republic of the Philippines.

RR 1 – CALASIAO, PANGASINAN

Residential

001 Place : Dagupan City
Area : 200 sqm
Floor Price : P 60,000.00

Pasture Land

002 Place : Bayambang
Area : 286 sqm
Floor Price : P8,580.00

003 Place : Bayambang
Area : 274 sqm
Floor Price : P8,220.00

004 Place : Bayambang
Area : 286 sqm
Floor Price : P8,580.00

005 Place : Bayambang
Area : 286 sqm
Floor Price : P8,580.00

006 Place : Bayambang
Area : 462 sqm
Floor Price : P13,830.00

007 Place : Bayambang
Area : 532 sqm
Floor Price : P15,780.00

RR 5 – VALENZUELA

Residential

008 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 607 sqm
Floor Price : P194,240.00

009 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 135 sqm
Floor Price : P43,200.00

010 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 607 sqm
Floor Price : P194,240.00

011 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 550 sqm
Floor Price : P176,000.00

012 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

013 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 666 sqm
Floor Price : P213,120.00

014 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 583 sqm
Floor Price : P186,560.00

015 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

016 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

017 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 550 sqm
Floor Price : P176,000.00

018 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,0000.00

019 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

020 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 578 sqm
Floor Price : P184,960.00

021 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 683 sqm
Floor Price : P218,560.00

022 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 867 sqm
Floor Price : P277,440.00

023 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 665 sqm
Floor Price : P212,800.00

024 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 612 sqm
Floor Price : P195,840.00

025 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 582 sqm
Floor Price : P186,240.00

026 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 541 sqm
Floor Price : P173,120.00

027 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 642 sqm
Floor Price : P205,440.00

028 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 718 sqm
Floor Price : P229,760.00

029 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 640 sqm
Floor Price : P204,800.00

030 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 708 sqm
Floor Price : P226,560.00

031 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 687 sqm
Floor Price : P219,840.00

032 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 655 sqm
Floor Price : P209,600.00

033 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 554 sqm
Floor Price : P177,280.00

034 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 104 sqm
Floor Price : P33,280.00

035 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

036 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

037 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

038 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

039 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

040 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

041 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 501 sqm
Floor Price : P160,320.00

042 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 513 sqm
Floor Price : P164,160.00

043 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

044 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

045 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

046 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

047 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

048 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

049 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 506 sqm
Floor Price : P161,920.00

050 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 627 sqm
Floor Price : P206,640.00

051 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 320 sqm
Floor Price : P102,400.00

052 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 130 sqm
Floor Price : P41,600.00

053 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 19,182 sqm
Floor Price : P6,138,240.00

054 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 164 sqm
Floor Price : P52,480.00

055 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 726 sqm
Floor Price : P232,320.00

056 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 731 sqm
Floor Price : P233,920.00

057 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 735 sqm
Floor Price : P235,200.00

058 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 735 sqm
Floor Price : P235,200.00

059 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 822 sqm
Floor Price : P263,040.00

060 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 808 sqm
Floor Price : P258,560.00

061 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 719 sqm
Floor Price : P230,080.00

062 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 719 sqm
Floor Price : P230,080.00

063 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 719 sqm
Floor Price : P230,080.00

064 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 798 sqm
Floor Price : P255,360.00

065 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 860 sqm
Floor Price : P275,200.00

066 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 1,042 sqm
Floor Price : P333,440.00

067 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 650 sqm
Floor Price : P208,000.00

068 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 687 sqm
Floor Price : P219,840.00

069 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 778 sqm
Floor Price : P248,960.00

070 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 728 sqm
Floor Price : P232,960.00

071 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 512 sqm
Floor Price : P163,840.00

072 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 492 sqm
Floor Price : P157,440.00

073 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

074 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

075 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 515 sqm
Floor Price : P164,800.00

076 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 557 sqm
Floor Price : P178,240.00

077 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 571 sqm
Floor Price : P182,720.00

078 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 895 sqm
Floor Price : P286,400.00

079 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 538 sqm
Floor Price : P172,160.00

080 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 725 sqm
Floor Price : P232,000.00

081 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 436 sqm
Floor Price : P139,520.00

082 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 616 sqm
Floor Price : P197,120.00

083 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 587 sqm
Floor Price : P187,840.00

084 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 742 sqm
Floor Price : P237,440.00

085 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

086 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

087 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

088 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 537 sqm
Floor Price : P171,840.00

089 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 534 sqm
Floor Price : P170,880.00

090 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 375 sqm
Floor Price : P120,000.00

091 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 444 sqm
Floor Price : P142,080.00

092 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 521 sqm
Floor Price : P166,720.00

093 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 566 sqm
Floor Price : P181,120.00

094 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 535 sqm
Floor Price : P171,200.00

095 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 535 sqm
Floor Price : P171,200.00

096 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 535 sqm
Floor Price: P171,200.00

097 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 535 sqm
Floor Price : P171,200.00

KEEP HELPING BUILD OUR NATION. PLEASE PAY YOUR TAXES.

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098 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 535 sqm
Floor Price : P171,200.00

099 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 535 sqm
Floor Price : P171,200.00

100 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

101 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

102 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 559 sqm
Floor Price : P178,880.00

103 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 421 sqm
Floor Price : P134,720.00

104 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

105 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

106 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

107 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

108 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 843 sqm
Floor Price : P269,760.00

109 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 755 sqm
Floor Price : P241,600.00

110 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 754 sqm
Floor Price : P241,280.00

111 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 763 sqm
Floor Price : P244,160.00

112 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 861 sqm
Floor Price : P275,520.00

113 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

114 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

115 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 504 sqm
Floor Price : P161,280.00

116 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 574 sqm
Floor Price : P183,680.00

117 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 648 sqm
Floor Price : P207,360.00

118 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 673 sqm
Floor Price : P215,360.00

119 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 680 sqm
Floor Price : P217,600.00

120 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 718 sqm
Floor Price : P229,760.00

121 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 895 sqm
Floor Price : P286,400.00

122 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 756 sqm
Floor Price : P241,920.00

123 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 483 sqm
Floor Price : P154,560.00

124 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 483 sqm
Floor Price : P154,560.00

125 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 570 sqm
Floor Price : P182,400.00

126 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 835 sqm
Floor Price : P267,200.00

127 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 484 sqm
Floor Price : P154,880.00

128 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 451 sqm
Floor Price : P144,320.00

129 Place : Bo. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Area : 500 sqm
Floor Price : P160,000.00

RR 8 – MAKATI CITY

Residential

130 Place : Pateros
Area : 546 sqm
Floor Price : 1,801,600.00

131 Place : Pateros
Area : 177 sqm
Floor Price : P584,000.00

132 Place : Pateros
Area : 384 sqm
Floor Price: P1,267,200.00

RR 9 – SAN PABLO CITY

Agricultural

133 Place : Gumaca
Area : 1.39 hectares
Floor Price : P70,000.00

Residential

134 Place : Calanauan
Area : 351,950 sqm
Floor Price : P369,547.50

RR 10 – LEGASPI CITY

Agricultural

135 Place : Daet, Camarines Norte
Area : 11,889 sqm
Floor Price : P53,550.00

136 Place : Brgy. Nabasagon, Bonbon, Milagros
Area : 14 hectares
Floor Price : P20,120.00

137 Place : Nabasagon, Bonbon, Milagros
Area : 78 hectares
Floor Price : P46,000.00

Residential

138 Place : Sorsogon, Sorsogon
Area : 400 sqm
Floor Price : P36,000.00

RR 12 – BACOLOD CITY

Residential

139 Place : Brgy Cabahug, Cadiz City
Area : 1,000 sqm
Floor Price: P450,000.00

140 Place : Brgy. Daga, Cadiz City
Area : 20,000 sqm
Floor Price : P5,000,000.00

141 Place : Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Area : 441 sqm
Floor Price : P308,700.00

142 Place : Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Area : 597 sqm
Floor Price : P417,900.00

143 Place : Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Area : 460 sqm
Floor Price : P322,000.00

144 Place : Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Area : 645 sqm
Floor Price : P451,500.00

145 Place : Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Area : 623 sqm
Floor Price : P436,100.00

146 Place : Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Area : 562 sqm
Floor Price : P393,400.00

147 Place : Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Area : 549 sqm
Floor Price : P384,300.00

148 Place : Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Area : 607 sqm
Floor Price : P424,900.00

149 Place : Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Area : 391 sqm
Floor Price : P273,700.00

150 Place : Alijis, Bacolod City
Area : 1,365 sqm
Floor Price: P1,092,000.00

151 Place : Alijis, Bacolod City
Area : 300 sqm
Floor Price : P240,000.00

152 Place : Alijis, Bacolod City
Area : 300 sqm
Floor Price : P240,000.00

153 Place : Alijis, Bacolod City
Area : 300 sqm
Floor Price : P240,000.00

154 Place : Alijis, Bacolod City
Area : 317 sqm
Floor Price : P253,600.00

155 Place : Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 523 sqm
Floor Price : P1,307,500.00

156 Place : Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 575 sqm
Floor Price: P1,437,500.00

157 Place : Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 627 sqm
Floor Price: P1,567,500.00

158 Place: Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 693 sqm
Floor Price: 1,732,500.00

159 Place: Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 710 sqm
Floor Price: P1,775,500.00

160 Place: Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 725 sqm
Floor Price: P1,812,500.00

161 Place: Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 714 sqm
Floor Price: P1,785,000.00

162 Place: Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 546 sqm
Floor Price: P1,365,000.00

163 Place: Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 464 sqm
Floor Price: P1,160,000.00

164 Place: Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 464 sqm
Floor Price: P1,160,000.00

165 Place: Sto. Nino, Bacolod City
Area : 874 sqm
Floor Price: P2,185,000.00

166 Place: Punta Taytay, Bacolod City
Area : 8,121 sqm
Floor Price: P5,276,650.00

167 Place : Granada
Area : 28,088 sqm
Floor Price:P19,661,600.00

RR 14 – TACLOBAN CITY

Residential

168 Place : Brgy. 63, Sagkahan Dist., Tacloban City
Area : 203 sqm
Floor Price : P91,350.00

169 Place : Brgy. 51, Tacloban City
Area : 220 sqm
Floor Price : P572,000.00

170 Place : Brgy. 51, Tacloban City
Area : 227 sqm
Floor Price : P590,000.00

171 Place : Brgy. 51, Tacloban City
Area : 221 sqm
Floor Price : P574,000.00

172 Place : Brgy. 51, Tacloban City
Area : 221 sqm
Floor Price : P574,000.00

173 Place : Brgy. 51, Tacloban City
Area : 271 sqm
Floor Price :P704,600.00

174 Place : Brgy. 51, Tacloban City
Area : 238 sqm
Floor Price : P618,800.00

175 Place : Brgy. 51, Tacloban City
Area : 227 sqm
Floor Price : P590,200.00

176 Place : Brgy. 51, Tacloban City
Area : 134.34 sqm
Floor Price : P349,284.00

177 Place : Brgy. 51, Tacloban City
Area : 234 sqm
Floor Price : P608,400.00

178 Place : Brgy. 51, Tacloban City
Area : 199 sqm
Floor Price : P517,400.00

Agricultural

179 Place : Babatngon
Area : 1.2960 hectares
Floor Price : P96,000.00

180 Place : Babatngon
Area : 7.1680 hectares
Floor Price : P568,000.00

181 Place : Babatngon
Area : 60,896 sqm
Floor Price : P487,168.00

RR 17 – BUTUAN CITY

Residential

182 Place : Brgy. 5, Pob. San Francisco, Agusan Sur
Area : 600 sqm
Floor Price : P210,000.00

183 Place : Bo. Sabang, Surigao City
Area : 476 sqm
Floor Price : P19,080.00

Industrial

184 Place : Bo. Diatagon, Lianga, Surigao del Sur
Area : 253.971 sqm
Floor Price :P2,793,680.00

RR 19 – DAVAO CITY

Residential

185 Place : Tagum, Davao del Norte
Area : 300 sqm
Floor Price : P45,000.00

186 Place : Apokon, Tagum
Area : 1,000 sqm
Floor Price : P275,000.00

187 Place : Monkayo, Davao
Area : 783 sqm
Floor Price : P117,450.00

Agricultural

188 Place : Busaon, Davao
Area : 46,689 sqm
Floor Price : P387,518.70

APPLICATION TO BID

1. Any person, not otherwise disqualified by law may file and participate in Sealed Bids.
2. All Sealed Bids application shall be submitted and received through the Regional Office Task Force (ROTF) of Revenue Region where the property is located one day before the scheduled public auction.
3. No bid for any land, improvements or any portion thereof advertised for sale shall be considered, unless it is accompanied by a deposit either in cash, manager's check or surety bond payable to BIR in the amount equivalent to 10% of the minimum bid price as determined by ROTF. The 10% shall form part of the purchase price of the winning bidder.

DATE AND VENUE

Bidding will be held at the respective BIR Regional Offices where the properties for sale are located on December 2. Another bidding will be held on December 17 for all the properties not sold during the regional bidding at the the National Training Center (NTC), BIR National Office Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City. All sealed bids shall be opened at 2:00 P.M.

SITE OF REGIONAL BIDDING

1. RR1-Calasiao, Pangasinan
   2nd floor, BIR Bldg., Mc Arthur Hi-way, Calasiao, Pangasinan
2. RR5-Valenzuela City
   385 JRC Bldg. MacArthur Highway, Malinta, Valenzuela City
3. RR8-Makati City
   5th Flr. Atrium Bldg. Makati Ave., Makati City
4. RR9-San Pablo City
   Go Shin Tang Bldg., Maharlika Highway, San Pablo City
5. RR10-Legazpi City
   BIR Bldg., Camia St. Imperial Court Subd., Legazpi City
6. RR12-Bacolod City
   4th Floor, PNB Bldg., Lacson St. Bacolod City, Negros Occ.
7. RR14-Tacloban City
   BIR Bldg., Government Center, Candahug Palo, Leyte
8. RR17-Butuan City
   BIR Bldg., J. Rosales Avenue, Butuan City
9. RR19-Davao City
   2nd & 3rd Flrs Kaunlaran Bldg., San Pedro St., Davao City

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to withdraw properties from the sale.

SECURITY ALERT

2 power sites seen as NPA targets

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Two state-owned power companies in Negros Occidental and Iloilo have been classified by the police as "imminent targets" of alleged attacks by the New People's Army.

The claim was bolstered by recent and frequent sightings of armed NPA guerrillas near the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) geothermal power drilling site in Bago City, and the National Power Corp. (Napocor) sub-station in Iloilo, the police said.

Chief Supt. Marcelo Navarro, Western Visayas police director, yesterday ordered Senior Supt. Vicente Ponteras and Senior Supt. Juan Mabugat, provincial police directors of Negros Occidental and Iloilo, respectively, to ensure the security of the two power installations.

The presence of around 30 armed NPA rebels led by Abraham Villanueva was recently monitored by the police near the PNOC geothermal drilling site in Barangay Mailum, Bago City.

Lt. Col. Gregorio Fajardo, commanding officer of the Army's 11th Infantry Battalion based in La Carlota City, also reported numerous sightings of armed rebels in central Negros who, he said, have been avoiding armed confrontation with government troops.

Fajardo said they were watching closely all vital government and privately owned installations in central Negros.

Officials of the geothermal power plant in Palimpinon, Negros Oriental have already asked for military assistance to secure their facilities in the wake of the spate of rebel attacks, the latest of which were the burning of the Globe relay stations in Bohol and Quezon provinces.

Fajardo said they were not taking any chances as they intensify their military operations in central Negros, to preempt the activities of the NPA.

Ponteras directed Insp. Alberto Pabilona, deputy chief of the Bago police, to coordinate with the Philippine Army in securing the PNOC drilling site in Barangay Mailum.

Police intelligence reports meanwhile indicated that a certain Nida Acuestam, alias "Bulac," of the NPA Southern Front Committee, would spearhead the attack on the Napocor sub-station in La Paz, Iloilo.

The United States government and the European Union recently declared the NPA as a terrorist organization.

The EU, according to Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople, went a step further by declaring Jose Ma. Sison, alleged founder of the communist movement in the Philippines, as a terrorist.

The declaration, according to officials, would lead to a freeze in the assets of the communist movement and a ban on the travel of its leaders to certain countries.

But the National Democratic Front of the Philippines reacted strongly to the tag that the NPA and the communist rebels in the Philippines are terrorists.

Lawmaker urges Gloria to ban confabs, meets

MATI, Davao Oriental—A congressman here has urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to ban the holding of conventions and seminars among government officials this month and in December as most of these events are mere "junket trips" aimed at exhausting whatever is left in their annual budgets.

"Such practice is being done to consume whatever funds from their respective budget is left in order to protect their succeeding year's budget request and so as not to revert back to the national treasury any unutilized appropriations," said Davao Oriental Rep. Joel Mayo Almario, chair of the House committee on Mindanao economic affairs.

The ban, Almario said, would save the government millions of pesos in taxpayers' money "which are usually spent on unnecessary travel and accommodation expenses."

He said that if the government is really serious in its call for austerity, then the President must issue such order banning the holding of conventions and seminars of government officials at the end of the year.

"Otherwise, if the holding of conventions and seminars cannot be avoided, the heads of government agencies should make sure that they organize the seminars and conventions in a manner that would take into account the geographical distance of the country's island groups . . . to avoid unnecessary travel and accommodation expenses," Almario added.

He added that his proposed belt tightening measure would help the government cope with the ballooning budget deficit which has already gone beyond the P130 billion target for this year.

"We must all do our part in making every peso count," he said. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NPA suspects kill farmer, rape wife in remote Quezon village

LUCENA CITY—A suspected member of the communist New People's Army (NPA) that operates in the Bondoc Peninsula area reportedly killed a farmer and raped the victim's wife in a village in Catanauan, Quezon on Saturday evening.

A report reaching the Quezon police headquarters here identified the victim as one Danilo Untalan and his wife Connie, both natives of Batulan, Masbate and now residents of Barangay Doungan Ilaya, in the municipality of Catanauan.

Police said that at around 10 p.m., a certain Ka Brando, reportedly a known NPA member that operates in the area, arrived at the Untalans' house and ordered the couple to prepare food for him and four other companions that are also rebels.

The rebel leader then asked the farmer and one of his male guests, as they were then having a drink, to accompany him outside supposedly to talk with another NPA leader.

The leader known as Ka Brando then came back inside the house and at gunpoint sexually assaulted Untalan's wife.

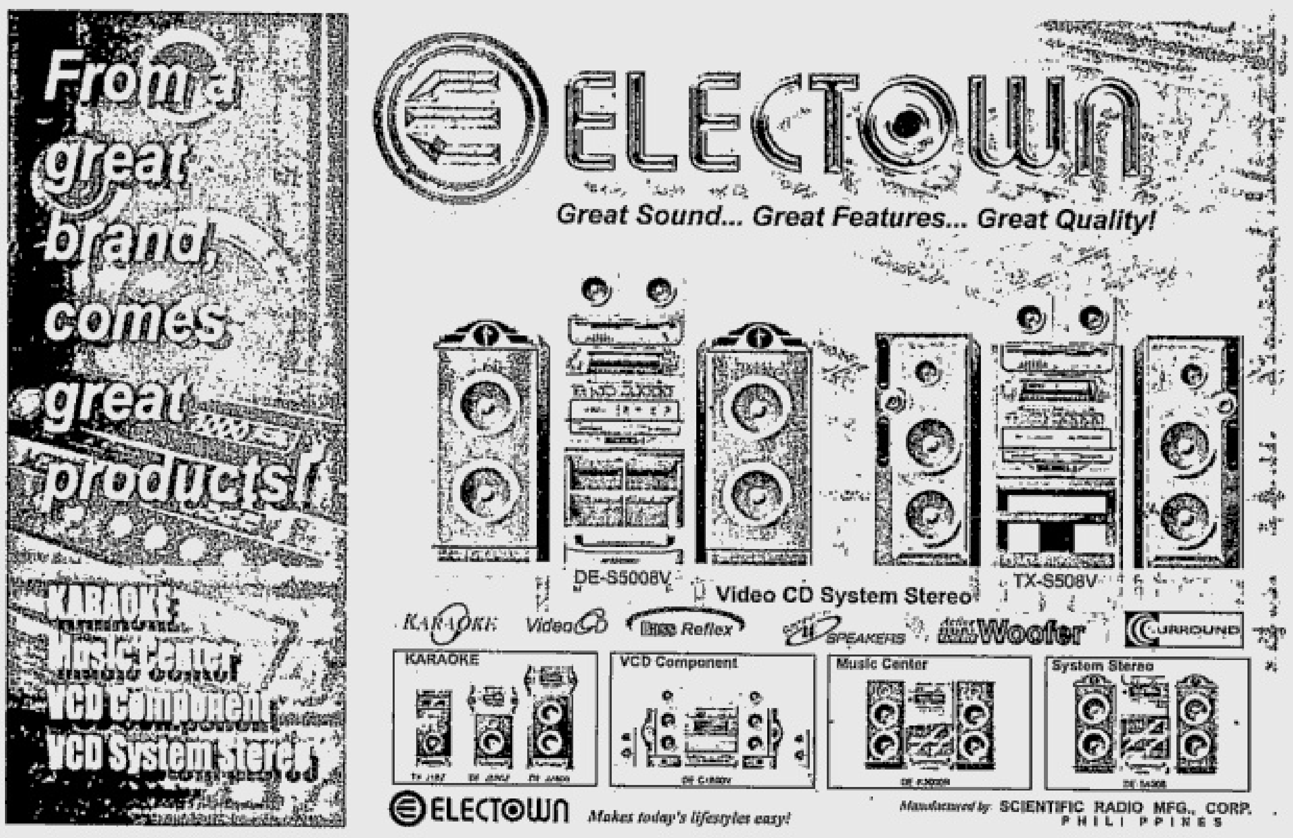
The next morning, Untalan's body was discovered with multiple stab wounds in a coconut plantation near the couple's house.

The police said the suspects also robbed the couple of cash and personal belongings amounting to P11,000.

Meanwhile, in Bacoor, Cavite, on the same day, six suspected NPA members with high-caliber firearms held up a Shell gasoline station and took away P139,000 in cash.

Marilyn Lebrilla, 25, collector of the Shell gasoline station in Aguinaldo Highway, Barangay Real, said the suspects arrived on board a small motorcycle with plate number VN 4815 and another motorcycle with unknown plate number. Lebrilla said one of the suspects took the station's earnings at gunpoint.

The suspects immediately fled after robbing the gas station. Police recovered the small motorcycle used by the suspects. *Delfin Mallari Jr. and Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



ROUNDUP

Landslide in Ifugao

HINGYON, Ifugao—A landslide led to the closure of a 60-meter stretch of a national road here on Friday, stranding several commuters and tourists for a day. No casualties were reported in the landslide that blocked the road in Sitio Pitawan in Barangay Uong. Commuters going to and coming from the tourist town of Banaue, about 10 km from here, were forced to walk as passenger jeeps and buses canceled trips. Ely Lorenzana, an engineer of the Department of Public Works and Highways here, said one lane of the road was opened on Saturday as clearing operations continued.
Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Suspected robbers killed

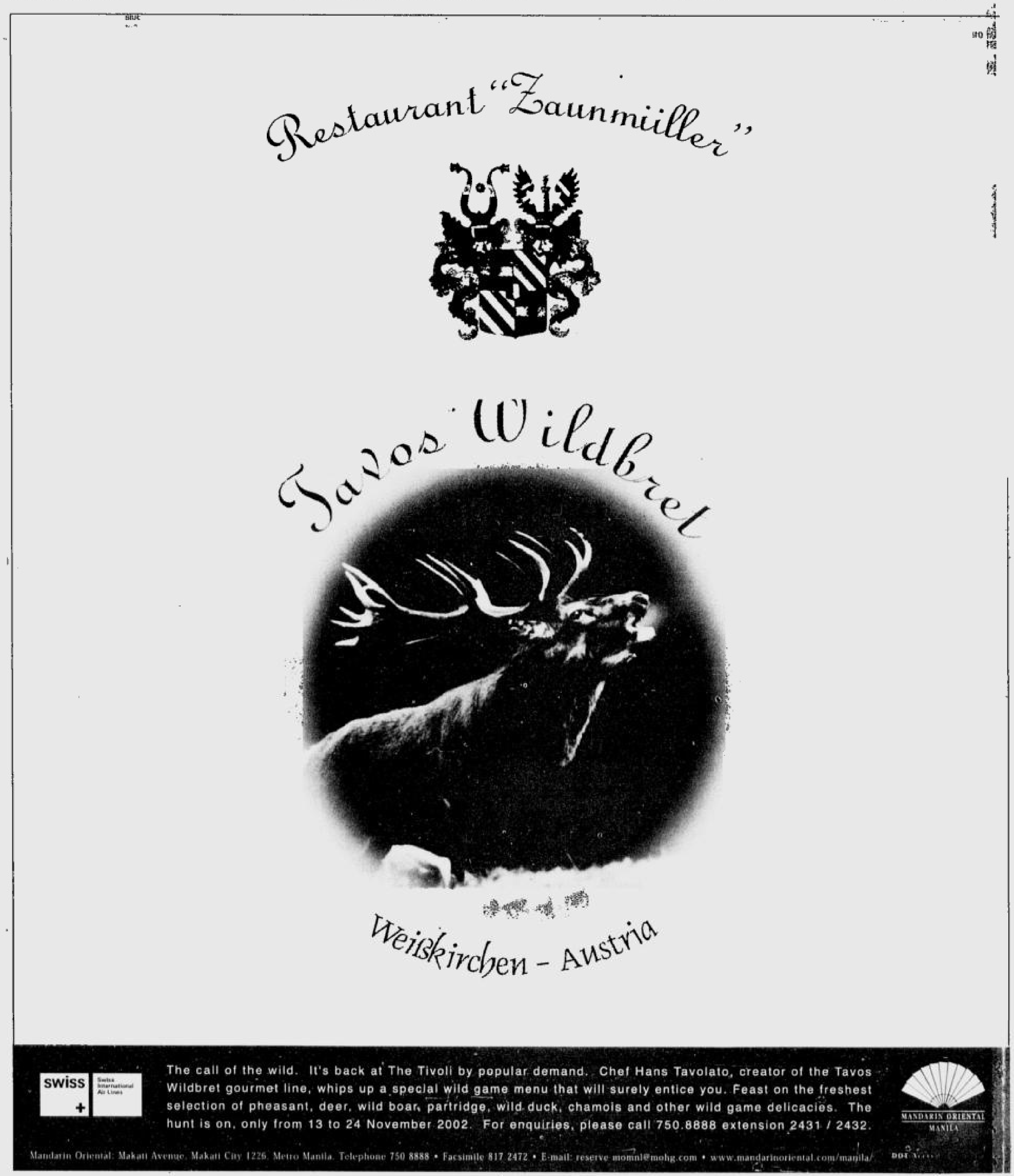
MARILAO, Bulacan—Policemen shot and killed three suspected members of a robbery-hold-up gang operating in Central Luzon and Metro Manila during a 15-minute gunfight in Barangay Poblacion 1 here on Thursday. One of the suspects was identified as Randy Bridez while the two others were known only as Ka Orly and Ka Jun, members of the Rado Gang. Senior Supt. Felizardo Serapio Jr., Bulacan police director, said the suspects, who were aboard two vehicles, were about to rob the house of businessman Willy Villarica, owner of the Villarica chain of jewelry shops in the country, when they were intercepted by the police. Recovered from the suspects were sketches of their targets, location of Villarica's house and possible exit roads, three hand guns, an M-16 Armalite rifle, a grenade, several magazines and bullets for M-16 rifle.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Ricelands flooded

MABITAC, Laguna—Vast tracts of land with palay due to be harvested were feared destroyed by flash floods caused by an overnight downpour in low-lying areas here and nearby towns. As early as 5 a.m. on Sunday, water overflowed across more than a kilometer stretch of the national highway here, both sides of which were planted to palay, Fr. Frederick Villareal, priest in charge of abandoned children in this town, told the INQUIRER. In Sinilpan, the river's water volume was increasing and more rains might cause another flooding, which could destroy plants, submerge houses and adversely affect businesses in the area, said resident Maan Leopando. In Victoria, Pila and nearby towns increased flooding was also observed, threatening to destroy the palay grains due for harvest.
Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Grants from Australia

THE AUSTRALIAN Embassy's Direct Aid Program (DAP) has provided a total of P2.4 million for 17 development cooperatives and associations from 13 provinces and 2 cities in the Philippines from June 2001 to July 2002. The grants have been used for agriculture, manufacturing, water and sanitation, health services, infrastructure and education projects of 17 cooperatives and associations. DAP is designed to support projects which directly contribute to the welfare and income-generating capacity of the poor.



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DPWH BLAMED

Batangas execs slam delay in road project

BATANGAS CITY—Local officials here have asked the Department of Public Works and Highways to look into the long delay in the completion of the P50-million road widening project that links Sto. Tomas town and Batangas City via the 40-kilometer Star Tollway, popularly called the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) Highway.

The three-km access road from Barangay Balagtas leads to the Batangas Port, which is being groomed to become the country's alternative to the Port of Manila.

The Manila port has been blamed for congestion in traffic in the metropolis as trucks coming from the busy port have to pass through the city's already jampacked roads and streets.

The officials, who requested not to be named, said the project has been stalled for quite sometime due to the insistence of two top DPWH officials to take over completion of the project from private contractors who had made preparatory works on the four-lane highway.

They said "the DPWH director for Luzon and the DPWH Region 4 director were exerting pressure on the private contractors to give up the access road project by imposing stringent conditions for its completion."

The INQUIRER tried several times to contact DPWH assistant secretary Florante Soriquez, the official in charge of Luzon projects, and DPWH IV-A regional director Nestor Agustin but they were always out of their offices.

The same Batangas City officials said the two public works officials are holding back the approval of the additional contract of work for the private contractors unless the contractor agrees that the DPWH takes over the project.

"In effect, what these DPWH officials would want to happen is make the private contractors mere dummies in that portion of the project while they (DPWH) undertake its completion," one city official said.

The cost of the uncompleted portion of the project is estimated at P22 million.

Another official noted that despite the performance record of the private contractors in public infrastructure in Batangas, the two DPWH officials would not want to release the additional contract of work.

"The bottom line here is these contractors are wary that their records will be tarnished if they allow the DPWH to take over the project under their contract names," he added.

The officials asked Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong to order an investigation, saying the road project would benefit the town and bring progress to the entire province. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Legislator's brother sued for smuggling

BUTUAN CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation has filed smuggling charges against the younger brother of Rep. Edelmiro Amante and 26 other private individuals on Friday in connection with the seizure of some P17 million worth of smuggled rice at the Masao port here on July 12.

Reynaldo Esmeralda, deputy regional director of the NBI in the Caraga region, said Nitoy Amante played a key role in the transport here of the rice cargo, which is believed to have come from either Vietnam or Thailand.

Esmeralda said the younger brother of the executive secretary of former President Fidel Ramos might have served as a conduit for big time smugglers and local dealers of smuggled goods.

"He facilitated its (the smuggled rice's) transport and the unloading of goods from the vessel," Esmeralda told the INQUIRER.

The rice cargo was brought in on board the MV Rodeo.

The MV Rodeo later sailed to Cebu despite a hold order for it not to sail.

It was repainted with another vessel's identity when authorities caught up with it a few days after it sailed off for Cebu.

The vessel's disappearance prompted the NBI to file charges of corruption and grave misconduct against at least 13 officials from the police, the Bureau of Customs, Coast Guard and the Philippine Ports Authority before the Ombudsman in Mindanao.

Esmeralda said he believes that the younger Amante has "strong connections" with illegal smugglers operating in the whole country.

This was the reason the NBI was trying to convince him to turn into a state witness.

Esmeralda said their efforts to convince Amante to turn state witness have repeatedly failed,

"He's very valuable if we can make him (a) state witness, but he refused (the offer)," he said.

Aside from Amante, the NBI also filed charges against Zaldy Villa, owner of Villa Shipping Lines and the 22 crew members of MV Rodeo; Felix Villacastin and Flavio Makinano Jr., managers of the Concord Arrastre and Stevedoring Corp., the shipment's handlers, and local businessman Jose Ranan. ***Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

No politics in judiciary

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Chief Justice Hilario Davide sought to dispel talk that judges are appointed because of political accommodation.

In an open forum of some 1,500 lawyers who were here for the Integrated Bar of the Philippines' convention, Davide said the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) has implemented a system in selecting judges.

"We adopted a new policy that requires only a nomination of at least three applicants for every vacancy. In the case of Jolo, three applied and each was nominated to every sala and eventually ended up appointed," the chief justice said.

Davide's statement came after a complaint raised by a Cebu-based lawyer who said he could not get into the judiciary because he has not asked a politician for support. *Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

BOY CABRIDO

GLIMPSE OF WAR

A boy watches on as members of the Philippine Navy's elite Special Warfare Group prepare for small exercises during the unit's 46th anniversary in Cavite City recently.

Landlord's guards, backers beat up TV cameraman

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—A TV network cameraman was beaten up by irate supporters of landowner Roberto Cuenca while he was covering the takeover by farmer-beneficiaries of the Cuenca-owned Hacienda Velez-Malaga, in Barangay Robles, La Castellana, Negros Occidental on Saturday.

Edmund Andes Lasala, 29, a cameraman of ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) was assaulted by the hacienda's security guards and some Cuenca-allied workers as he was filming the takeover around 6 a.m. Saturday.

Lasala's video camera was also forcibly taken from him but it was returned late Saturday afternoon after the police intervened in the case.

Lasala, who came from Manila to cover the event, arrived with about 150 farmer beneficiaries belonging to Task Force Mapalad (TFM) who took possession of field No. 1 of the hacienda covering 5.7 hectares without permission from the Department of Agrarian Reform, a police report said.

Lasala was in Negros Occidental as part of an ANC crew making a documentary on agrarian reform.

The entry of the Mapalad farmers was met with strong resistance from about 50 pro-Cuenca farmers, the police report said.

Local policemen immediately proceeded to the area to pacify the opposing parties. A meeting was also held between the leaders of both parties at the La Castellana police station where it was agreed that they would maintain status quo while waiting for the result of a negotiation set on Nov. 13, the police said.

The TFM, in a press release Sunday, quoted Lasala as saying that he was taking a long shot of the farmers' entry when he suddenly felt a blow in his back. He also saw men wielding bamboo and sugarcane poles, "ready to assault him."

He reportedly told his attackers he was not their enemy and he was from the media. He showed them his press identification card but the men still took turns in hitting him in the head, arms, back and legs, the press release said.

However, an ABS-CBN news team from Bacolod said Lasala suffered bruises that were not serious.

The TFM said the Cuenca guards were firing guns as they entered the hacienda.

Cuenca could not be reached for comment as of late yesterday afternoon.

The National Union of Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP) condemned Lasala's beating, saying it viewed the incident not only as a criminal assault but also as an attack on press freedom.

The NUJP called on the police to arrest and file charges against the Cuenca guards and the landowner's supporters who were responsible for the assault.

Cop training officers ordered fired

DAVAO CITY—After suspending the training of 288 police scouts, Chief Supt. Isidro Lapena, police chief for Southern Mindanao, ordered the relief of the scouts' training officers.

Chief Insp. Perfecto Nacion said Lapena ordered the relief of the training officers, whose names were not disclosed, last Friday while the investigation of alleged negligence in the training camp was going on.

Nacion, who will now head the training of the police scouts for accounting purposes, said the training officers were ordered to report back to the regional headquarters.

Last week, the death of a trainee during a Sea Search and Rescue Training stirred the Philippine National Police (PNP) regional office into action.

The 287 police scouts, who will be graduating on Nov. 30, also complained of harsh conditions at training.

Three trainees are still undergoing medication at a hospital for respiratory problems.

The death of the trainee prompted Lapena to suspend the training and order an investigation. The training will resume as soon as the result of the investigation is out.

The training, Lapena earlier said, would make a better policeman. "This is not to harm him. There is a purpose—this will develop their skills," he said. *Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Visayas power co-ops lead way in rate reduction

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Here's good news for Central Negros Electric Cooperative (Ceneco) consumers.

When they receive their November bills for their October consumption, it will be 86.5 centavos less for every kilowatt-hour that they consumed.

Ceneco president Primo Esleyer yesterday said this was the result of the Energy Regulatory Commission's (ERC) approval of the unbundling of the rates of the National Power Corp., which brought down Ceneco's power purchase adjustment of P2.08 per kWh to only P1.2152 per kWh.

"From our rate of P5.12 composed of P2.04 on the basic rate and P2.08 on the PPA, the new rate will be something like P4.2608 per kilowatt hour only," Esleyer said.

Esleyer said the rate could still go down by 10.4 centavos, bringing down the per kWh cost to P4.1, once the Energy Regulatory Commission approves a rate reduction scheme resulting from the government's decision to condone loans obtained by electric cooperatives from the National Electrification Administration (NEA).

Ceneco covers the cities of Bacolod, Talisay, Silay and Bago, and the towns of Murcia and Don Salvador Benedicto.

Earlier, the Negros Occidental Electric Cooperative Inc. (Noceco), which services four cities and 13 towns in southern Negros Occidental, also asked the ERC to reduce its basic power rate by 23 centavos per kWh after the NEA condoned its P161.3 million debt.

The NEA loans granted to cooperatives for rural electrification had been condoned under Executive Order 119, in compliance with the Electric Power Industry Reform Act.

Noceco said the reduction in rates would be commensurate to its savings from the halt in the payment of loans.

2,000 farmers get land titles

AT LEAST 2,013 farmers in Leyte were recently awarded collective land titles and emancipation patents by the Department of Agrarian Reform, signaling the start of their land ownership.

In a statement, the DAR said farmers from 33 municipalities in Leyte and the cities of Ormoc and Tacloban received the titles granting them ownership of 2,819 hectares of land.

Bartolome Asejo of Ormoc said he had been working on the land he tills for some time and the award of the Certificate of Land Ownership Award was an overdue reward for his efforts.

The other farmers shared Asejo's sentiments.

The statement quoted Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza as saying the government is winding up the land distribution aspect of the CARP through the Salin Lupa program.

"What we are doing here in the province of Leyte is part and parcel of our core program at DAR, which we call Bayan-Anihan. Bayan-Anihan's premise is simple—for the farmers to get their own land and . . . change their lives for the better," Braganza said.

Narciso Nieto, Bureau of Land Development director, promised the farmers he would bring the issues presented to him to the DAR management.

But he advised the farmers to segregate problems that need action at the municipal, provincial, regional and central levels for faster resolution.

The distribution of land titles coincide with the creation of the Task Force Ormoc, a tripartite body that would facilitate land reform in Ormoc, one of the areas where landlord resistance to CARP is strong.

NBI pushes rape case vs Sarangani town vice mayor

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation district office in the South Cotabato-Sarangani-General Santos (Socsargen) area has recommended the filing of rape charges against a Sarangani town vice-mayor.

In its investigation report dated Oct. 28, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, the NBI said it found probable cause for the filing of a rape case against Malungon town Vice Mayor Reynaldo Constantino.

The NBI's recommendation was forwarded to the Provincial Prosecutor's Office in Sarangani along with the complaint sheet.

Constantino's accuser is a 16-year-old girl from the town.

The girl, a graduating student in one of the secondary schools in Malungon, said Constantino raped her on Oct. 2 inside his rest house in Sitio Kalumbarak in Malungon.

She said prior to that, Constantino called her mobile phone and invited her to the rest house supposedly to give her a gift.

The complainant, head majorette of her school's band, said she was afraid the vice mayor would get mad at her so she went and brought with her a female friend.

While on the way to the rest house on board the vice mayor's pick-up, the girl said Constantino, who was seated beside her, started to abuse her.

She said she protested in pain but the vice mayor showed her a gun, which frightened her.

The girl's companion, in a separate statement, said she saw the vice mayor place a hand inside her friend's jogging pants.

When they reached Sitio Kalumbarak, the complainant said her friend and the driver were left behind the car.

Constantino allegedly dragged her to the rest house and raped her.

Constantino also allegedly threatened to harm her and her family should she report the rape.

After the rape, the girl said she and her friend were driven back to the town and she was given P1,000 by Constantino.

Constantino called up the next day to ask "Does it still hurt?"

Tests made by a female doctor of the Davao Medical Center showed signs of rape.

The family has since moved to Davao City after receiving a series of threats.

The victim's father said he received a text message offering him P15 million in exchange for the withdrawal of the rape case.

Constantino, son of Sarangani Vice Gov. Felipe Constantino, said he would answer the allegation in court. ***Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Loyalists reveal Imelda style: Borrow money, then hide

From page A1

were never Imelda loyalists to begin with.

"We will forever be Marcos loyalists, Ferdinand Edralin Marcos loyalists, not Imelda's," she said.

"We just supported her because of the legacy of her husband. We love the President so much that we shared her grief and deprivation," she said.

"We were with her in her moments of deprivation precisely because we did not expect to be paid," said Gaddi, who had worked with Imelda for 27 years.

Spending money

Gaddi said she and other avid Marcos loyalists were witnesses to countless incidents when Imelda received money from various people.

"We have seen her spend money, whether hers or other people's, and we never even thought of asking her if we can partake of it," Gaddi said.

"She knows that I can never be bought or silenced by her," Gaddi said.

Cobarrubias said Imelda took advantage of people who supported her because of their admiration for the late President.

"She is just playing with us," she said.

She said Imelda's "style" during her low years was to borrow money for her many needs—travel, campaign and others—and then hide from her creditors when it was time to pay.

Cobarrubias said she ended up paying a $50,000 loan Imelda asked her to make for one of her trips to Hong Kong in 1993.

Imelda had called her up to find money because she could not pay her hotel bills. She delivered the money the following day, she said, and Imelda promised to pay in three weeks.

When the time came, however, Imelda refused to talk to her, so Cobarrubias said she had to pay the loan from her own money.

She said a number of people who lent money to Imelda are now dead but the loans have not been paid them.

Cobarrubias said she used to give Imelda pocket money when she was short of cash in her travels.

This was aside from the undetermined amount she had spent organizing the Marcos Loyalists National Headquarters, she added.

Sensitive missions

When the Marcoses were in exile in Hawaii, Cobarrubias used to run errands, including "sensitive missions" she does not want to divulge at the moment, all at her own expense.

She said that when the Marcos family was still negotiating for a compromise settlement with the government, she went back and forth to Switzerland using her own money.

She and her group collaborated in publishing eight books, including "Lost in Time" Books 1 and 2 written by Marcos military chief Gen. Galileo Kintanar and another book written by an author using the pseudonym "Mr. Militante."

Cobarrubias used to own a huge facility caring for the elderly and mentally ill in California.

"What I earned from my business went to the other pocket, to pay for the expenses of the Marcos legacy," she said.

Cobarrubias said she has lost count of the many times she had searched for money to support Imelda and keep her comfortable in the years she was fighting charges in court.

When the former first lady ran for the presidency, she asked Cobarrubias to collect P10 million to support her campaign.

"After two days, I brought somebody to her who gave her the money as a donation, not as a loan," she said in English.

But more than the financial help, Cobarrubias said she and her fellow loyalists have stayed with Imelda to give her moral support.

She recalls how they would ask her to watch movies and go to the malls to cheer her up when she felt down.

"We would scramble to pick up the bill," she said in Filipino.

Last straw

Cobarrubias said it was Imelda's treachery and manipulation that led the core loyalists to sever their ties.

The last straw was when Imelda sent her, Gaddi, Escolin and Edwin Lamarca off to Hong Kong last May for a mission she declined to reveal.

COBARRUBIAS

As it turns out, Imelda was intriguing against both Cobarrubias and Gaddi.

As they were sent off together, Imelda suddenly called back Escolin and Lamarca, leaving the two of them wondering in Hong Kong. When they got together, they realized Imelda was pitting them against each other.

"So we decided this is too much," Cobarrubias said.

Cobarrubias said she confronted Imelda personally.

"The problem with you, Ma'am, is that you're intriguing against us," she said she told Imelda. "We understand your treachery."

Imelda's behavior also often landed her supporters in tight fixes.

She recalled that when Violago's sister was getting married in Cebu, and Imelda was to stand as sponsor, the Marcos widow suddenly decided not to go.

"I already had my dress made and we were all set to go," Cobarrubias recalled.

But Imelda called her to say they should not attend the wedding. She told her supporters she would check in at the Makati Medical Center instead. When asked if she was sick, Imelda allegedly said: "No, *kunwari lang* (I'm just pretending)."

The bride's parents, unaware of the drama, were even profuse with apologies for the supposedly sick sponsor.

Manipulating people

Cobarrubias appealed to Imelda to stop telling lies and manipulating people.

She said Imelda was using the unpaid electric bills for the late President's mausoleum in Batac, Ilocos Norte, to make people believe that she does not have money, including the P2-billion settlement she supposedly got from the majority owner of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

"I am appealing to Mrs. Marcos to please pay the electricity bills. She knows in her conscience that she has the money to pay. She can travel but she cannot pay the bills? She should stop abusing her husband's corpse," she said.

When asked about the alleged settlement, Cobarrubias said in Filipino: "This is all I can. Ma'am should just admit to it. She should come clean. It'll hurt more if the truth came from us."

Gaddi confirmed the reported settlement, saying those who brokered the deal told her group about it.

"Yes, (the negotiations have) been going on for quite some time. I've been hearing about it (settlement) but I don't know how much (was paid to her)," she said.

But she said those who were part of the negotiations recently informed her and others that a settlement had in fact been completed.

But she said these people were afraid to come out in the open.

Gaddi is now busy putting together her tell-all book about Imelda, as seen by her "former" friends, allies and loyalists.

She said she has been receiving many documents and personal accounts from a host of personalities—ordinary loyalists, hard-core admirers and those who had "financial dealings" with her and the late President.

But she said the book would be fair; it would be "about human nature" and how people dealt with power.

She recalled that the late Johnny Tuvera (an executive secretary of Marcos) had told her, when she was just new in Malacañang as a broadcaster, that people in the corridors of power "levitate."

"They don't have their feet on the ground," she said.

OROPESA

La Oropesa ...

From page A1

the groom's own hometown.

The groom, Joel Valdez, 23, was described by an employee of fashion designer Fanny Serrano as "*nakakaloka ang pagkaguapo* (insanely handsome)." Serrano designed the gown but was not able to make it to the ceremony, which was held in Gagala Beach Resort, in Taft, Eastern Samar.

Oropesa was "stunning" in a rhinestone-studded single-strapped long white gown, said Arlene Catuday, a guest. The actress was all smiles throughout the ceremony, Catuday added. Oropesa also wore a single red rose on her left ear.

Valdez is a Physical Therapy graduate and a fitness instructor at a gym in Manila patronized by Oropesa, a source close to his family said.

"It was during their workouts that the relationship bloomed, which ended in a wedding," the source added.

The marriage is Oropesa's second. She was first wed to Chinese martial arts actor Meng Fei, from whom she has since been divorced.

Before she married Valdez, the actress was linked to several other younger men, including bold-star-turned-character-actor Gardo Versoza and bit player Danny Ramos.

Oropesa is widely respected in show business as a compleat actress. Two years ago, she scored a "grand slam" as best actress (meaning she won the prize from all four award-giving bodies in the movie industry) for her performance in Joel Lamangan's "Bulaklak ng Maynila."

Mother and son

At the rites, Oropesa was joined by her mother Flordeliza Freeman and a son from her previous marriage.

She delighted the more than 1,000 guests when she danced the "*curacha*," a courtship-love dance that originated in Samar, according to another source, a friend of the Valdez family.

The celebration, it was learned, lasted up to the wee hours of Saturday.

Municipal Trial Court Judge Crisanto Afable officiated at the rites, Catuday said.

The principal sponsors included Rep. Marcelino Libanan of the lone district of Eastern Samar, Pasay City Mayor Peewee Trinidad, Taft Mayor Francisco Adalim, Taft Vice Mayor Cornelio Adel and Serrano.

Serrano also designed the groom's *barong tagalog*. Serrano failed to make it to the ceremony, however, because of a previous commitment in Manila.

Serrano said Oropesa initially wanted to keep the wedding under wraps to avoid creating a stir.

"I was even telling my dressmakers to be quiet about it," Serrano said. "But she herself was the one who divulged it in a TV interview, that's why I was surprised."

The source said the actress did not intend to live in Taft because of her many commitments in Metro Manila, which includes her daily television soap and assorted movie assignments.

Bad luck hounds pilot

From page A1

of Federal Bureau of Investigation agents at the Seattle-Tacoma international airport.

Call it premonition. Crisostomo, 42, who was barred entry into the United States on suspicion that he was a bioterrorist, is the same guy who piloted the twin-engine Fokker 27 plane that crashed into Manila Bay yesterday.

Not really that unlucky, Crisostomo was one of the 16 people who survived the crash. He refused to be interviewed at the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City.

The Inquirer called up Crisostomo's home in Parañaque City, but the maid said the pilot's wife had left for the hospital.

"Yes," the maid replied in Filipino when asked if her employer was the same pilot who landed on the Inquirer front page in November last year. On its Nov. 6 and 7 issues last year, the Inquirer ran stories on Crisostomo's interrogation and detention at the Seattle airport.

The management of Laoag International Airlines (LIA), which owns and operates the ill-fated commercial plane, refused to talk about the Seattle incident.

"I don't have that kind of information," LIA spokesperson Alvin Yater told the Inquirer. "I don't think he was suspected of being a terrorist."

Unfortunately, Crisostomo was. Had he not been, Crisostomo would now be piloting a plane in Nigeria.

Some paranoid FBI agents, however, thwarted Crisostomo's dream of working abroad.

Crisostomo and another Filipino pilot, Wel S. Come, were on their way to attend a three-day "simulation recurrency training" at the Flight Safety International, a flying school in Wichita, Kansas. After the training, they were to fly Nigeria to meet with their employer.

On Oct. 31 last year, the two took a Northwest Airlines flight from Manila to Seattle via Tokyo. Upon their arrival in Seattle, the two pilots were met by FBI agents who handcuffed them after verifying their identities.

Crisostomo, a former Philippine Air Force pilot and graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, learned later that US authorities had received a tip that he and Come were carrying anthrax bacteria. Hysteria over the deadly bacteria was sweeping America then.

For three hours, Crisostomo said he and Come were interrogated on their supposed terrorist connections. The two were eventually cleared, but not after authorities canceled their 10-year US tourist visas and sent them flying back to Manila on board a Northwest Airlines flight the following day.

No Philippine Embassy official helped Crisostomo and Come during their ordeal. The Macapagal administration subsequently said it would not file a diplomatic protest with Washington.

Crisostomo told the Inquirer then that he couldn't blame the FBI agents, saying they were "just doing their jobs . . . part of security measures in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks."

He said then that he was no longer keen on pursuing his job application abroad and that he would just look for a job here.

PRESIDENT Macapagal visits pilot Bernie Crisostomo at the San Juan de Dios Hospital.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Erap lawyer stalls Ocampo testimony

From page A1

for impeachment trial witnesses, to project her as a witness beholden to the administration. His questions included the likes of: How many tables were there? Were they fully occupied? How far from the President's table? Was there dancing?

The dinner has never been denied by the prosecution, and was already covered by the testimony of previous witnesses.

The result: Ocampo, the former Equitable PCI Bank executive, was prevented from reprising her damaging testimony against the ousted President for at least one more day.

Assistant Ombudsman Dennis Villa-Ignacio sarcastically remarked off-court that Estrada's counsel *de oficio* "should be commended for following his (Estrada's) order to delay the presentation of Clarissa."

The court's presiding chair, Justice Minita Nazario, explained that current rules of court no longer impose time limits on a counsel's direct or cross examination.

"The problem is with the rules," she said. "And that's the problem with our country: too much due process."

Separate cross

Defense lawyers have almost always conducted separate cross examinations of the same witness, the first grilling on behalf of Joseph Estrada, the second on behalf of his co-accused son Jinggoy.

During Pamaran's grilling of Radenas, prosecutors repeatedly either questioned the relevance of his queries or complained that he was merely repeating Crescini's line.

Pamaran asked Radenas about her salary, her career path and other circumstances leading to her testimony during the Estrada impeachment trial on how her bank processed the P130-million tobacco excise tax that allegedly ended up in the ex-President's pockets.

He finally let go of Radenas at 12:55 p.m., five minutes before the regular adjournment of the Sandiganbayan hearings. By then, state prosecutors, their heads bowed, had already given up on seeing Ocampo at the stand.

In spite of Pamaran's questions, Crescini told the court that when the hearing resumes tomorrow, he may need "15 to 20 minutes" more with Radenas, this time to confront her with the transcripts of her impeachment trial testimony.

"Fifteen to 20 minutes? Those were the exact words of Attorney Crescini during the previous hearing," an irked Villa-Ignacio retorted, saying he hoped "there will be no more delay" in the presentation of Ocampo.

Crescini decried Villa-Ignacio's remarks as "unfair," wondering aloud: "Why is he always picking on me?"

While awaiting her turn, Ocampo stayed the whole morning at the Office of the Special Prosecutor inside the Sandiganbayan building.

Her examining counsel, Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, reportedly arrived to confer with her as early as 7:30 a.m., but he was not in court during Radenas' grilling.

Pro and anti

Pro- and anti-Estrada crowds once again filled the Sandiganbayan courtroom for the first time in months.

The tension of the day's long wait nearly led to a confrontation between the two groups as they were making their exit outside the courtroom.

Arnold Obina, a pro-Estrada organizer, was held briefly by Sandiganbayan sheriffs for improper conduct after he was caught shouting, "*Sinungaling, Sinungaling!* (Liar! Liar!)" at a group of Ocampo supporters.

The object of his spite: A Benedictine sister, one of the six nuns from Ocampo's alma mater St. Scholastica's College, who Obina said made a "you're crazy" gesture at him (she allegedly twirled her fingers around her ear) as they were descending the stairs.

Obina was made to explain at the sheriff's office and eventually released after about 15 minutes.

▲

Defense lawyer visits PDI

By Volt Contreras

GUESS who came to the Inquirer library? A lawyer for deposed President Joseph Estrada, that's who.

Noel Malaya, one of Estrada's court-appointed lawyers, did some "research" at the PDI library last Friday. What was he looking for? Material that might be useful for grilling the prosecution's star witness, bank executive Clarissa Ocampo. Estrada, facing plunder and other charges at the Sandiganbayan, has been consistently critical of the Inquirer.

Malaya said he asked for photocopies of news and other items related to Estrada's impeachment trial.

He was particularly impressed with PDI's computerized story archive, he said.

As a result of his research, he and fellow defense counsel yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to subpoena the Dec. 14, 21 and 31, 2000 issues of the Inquirer.

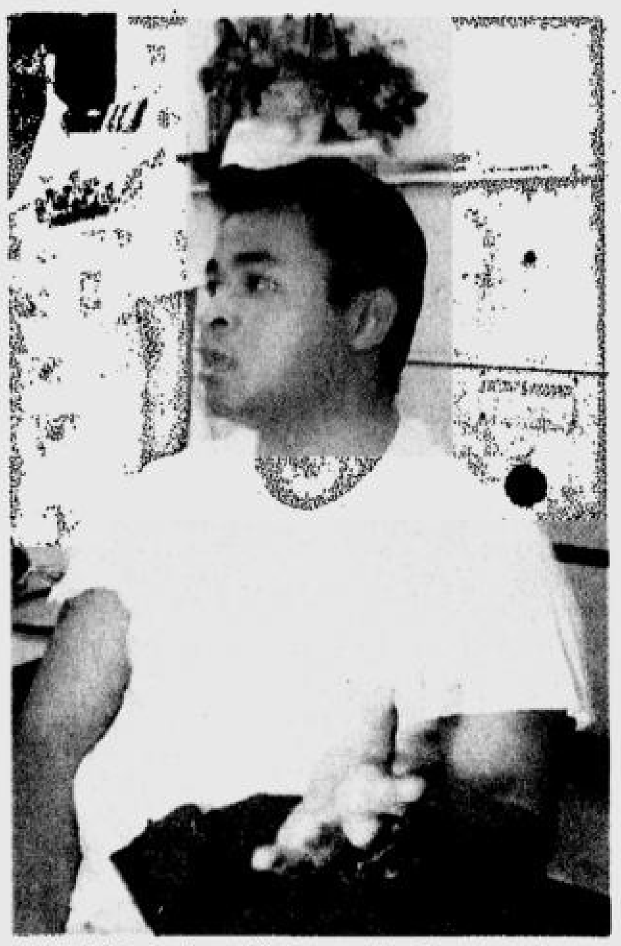
Malaya said they would use the "'full-page ads" put up by Equitable PCI Bank in those three issues as additional documents they would confront Ocampo with.

In the Dec. 14 ad, the bank said it was not withholding information being sought in the subpoenas then issued by the Senate impeachment trial court. In the Dec. 21 ad, the bank announced the resignation of George Go as chair.

The Dec. 31 ad assured the bank's clients of the continuing "secrecy" of their accounts, explaining that the bank's public disclosure of the "Jose Velarde" account was just strictly in compliance with a court order.

PRESIDENT Macapagal listens to flight attendant Adhika Espinosa narrate the crash incident at the San Juan de Dios Hospital. EDWIN BACASMAS

AUSTRALIAN survivor Steve Thompson waits at the Philippine Navy Clinic. AFP



ANOTHER survivor, Filipino co-pilot Capt. Joseph Gardener. AFP

Family's plan to move to US also perished

From page A1

ing for the approval of their petition to become US immigrants, Ferdinand and Gemma busied themselves with a born-again charismatic group and focused on the education of their three children aged 15, 13 and 10.

Gemma worked as a flight attendant at Cathay Pacific Airlines before joining LIA a few years ago.

"She was the only stewardess in the family, and we're really proud of her," Bongcaras said. "She had always wanted to work in an airline company since she graduated from a tourism course at the Jose Rizal College (now a university)."

Gemma first worked as a flight attendant at LIA, her aunt said. She was subsequently assigned to the ground office, where she supervised flight attendants and applicants.

She would occasionally join flights whenever the regular attendants were not available.

But yesterday, the scheduled attendant was supposedly not available. So Gemma had to board the Laoag-bound flight that would later crash into Manila Bay.

Late

Flight 585 was seven minutes late when it left the Manila Domestic Airport.

Five minutes later, it was at the bottom of the bay, crashing 1.4 nautical miles from the seawall of the Roxas Boulevard reclamation area.

Some of the dead passengers were found still in their seats, with their seatbelts on.

The corpses were taken to the Philippine Coast Guard headquarters and laid in a room beside the canteen.

There, grieving family members who initially waited at the breakwater in Pasay City were finally able to identify their dead.

A number of them, including the relatives of John Earl Rada whom rescuers tried to save, stood silently weeping.

Earlier, distraught relatives pleaded with rescuers from the Navy, the Army, the Air Force and the Coast Guard to find their missing loved ones, some of whose names were not on the official manifest at the chaotic command post hastily set up near the breakwater.

A rubber boat involved in the operation neared the shore but was told to rejoin the main rescue group as relatives openly wept at the horrific sight of its cargo—a cadaver whose stiff arms protruded from the vessel.

A gold watch strapped to its wrist glinted in the sun.

"There is zero visibility," said Supt. Pablito Cordeta, chief fire marshal and one of the leaders of the search.

Divers coming to shore to rest said the tail of the airplane had broken off in the crash, although the fuselage was largely intact. Their deep sea flashlights however were no use in the muddy, polluted waters.

The plane's exit doors were open, indicating that those who survived managed to get out upon impact and were picked up by fishermen or the rescue teams, officials said.

Chaotic

The situation at the improvised command center was on the verge of chaos as officials of various government agencies, rescuers, the media and relatives of the missing converged on the area sheltered from the blazing sun only by a lone beach umbrella.

In an effort to restore order, two blackboards were set up, listing the rescued, the dead and the missing.

One man rushed to the command center looking for word on his wife and 7-year-old son. When he failed to find their names among the rescued, he broke down in tears.

Their bodies were recovered from the water a few hours later.

Every few minutes a rubber boat came in from the search and relatives rushed to the shoreline to see if the body of a family member had been brought in.

The dead included four children, according to an official listing of the casualties.

Australian Ambassador Ruth Pearce said six Australians were on board, with one of them among the survivors. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Norman Bordadora, AFP*

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Many Happy Returns

Plane ditches in Manila Bay; 14 killed, 16 rescued

From page A1

for the four missing, with the Coast Guard declaring that it had shifted operations to search and "recovery."

The cause of the mishap is still unknown, and investigators are focusing on possible engine failure.

The survivors included the pilot, Capt. Bernie Crisostomo, and co-pilot, First Officer Joseph Gardiner—both Filipinos.

The Air Transportation Office has ordered the airline owned by Malaysian Paul Ng to suspend all its flights pending the result of an investigation on the crash.

"Its whole operations will be grounded while investigation is ongoing," ATO chief Adelberto Yap told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "We will be investigating their fleet and their operations, including their procedures, pilot training, cabin crew training, and most especially their maintenance."

The Fokker 27 carrying 29 passengers and five crew members left the Manila Domestic Airport at 6:06 a.m. on its way to Laoag City. It crashed about a kilometer off the coast of the reclamation area in front of Baclaran in Parañaque City seven minutes later.

It was to have arrived 7:30 a.m. at the Laoag airport, where it was scheduled to pick up passengers bound for Basco, Batanes.

Witnesses spoke of the plane emitting thick smoke and a very loud noise before disappearing into the bay.

Minutes later, they said, passengers began surfacing and crying for help.

"As soon as the plane hit the water, its tail snapped off and the remaining portion sank into the sea," a witness told the INQUIRER.

A cigarette vendor on Roxas Boulevard said the scene was the sort that he got to see only in the movies.

Joggers said the plane sounded like it was having engine trouble as it tried to gain altitude.

Flight attendant Adhika Espinosa was quoted by a radio station as telling President Macapagal-Arroyo that things happened so fast some passengers were apparently still sleeping when the crash occurred.

Navy officials said some of the victims, including a boy, were found still strapped in their seats.

Visit

The President looked in on some survivors at the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City at around noon, after a visit to a housing project in Tanza, Cavite.

She was to visit other survivors at the Ospital ng Maynila later in the afternoon after a Cabinet executive committee meeting in Malacañang.

"The President extends her sincerest condolence to the families of the victims of the air crash. She has ordered the ATO to immediately determine the cause of the accident to avert similar happenings in the future," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"At the same time, the President lauded the quick response of all persons and agencies, especially the fishermen in the area, who participated in the rescue efforts," he said.

San Juan de Dios Hospital reported that five people, including the pilot, had been brought in and appeared to be in fairly good shape.

Ospital ng Maynila said it had received nine survivors, and three others, including Thompson and the co-pilot, were taken to the Navy headquarters by the bay.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said in a statement that those taken to the Ospital ng Maynila would be treated free of charge.

AP quoted a Navy commander at the site as saying that divers were having trouble with murky conditions. A floating crane was initially brought to the scene in an attempt to raise the wreckage but also ran into difficulties.

"We're trying to retrieve the plane out of the water using ropes. Twice already the plane slipped," said Adm. Ruben Lista, commander of the Coast Guard.

The President ordered the ATO to immediately investigate the crash.

Yater said the airline received the ATO suspension order at 4 p.m. yesterday.

But he insisted that all LIA aircraft went through stringent safety checks before flying.

Yap confirmed this: "I know they have regular maintenance checks before any of their planes leave the ground. The ATO also conducts maintenance checks on all airlines to ensure the safety of their passengers."

Yater said this was the airline's first ever mishap since it started operations. *(See related story on this page.)*

He said it would extend assistance to the families of the crash victims.

Warnings

Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras, chair of the House committee on transportation and communication, and Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos said the ATO should explain why the airline was allowed to continue and expand operations despite their previous warnings.

"We've been warning (the ATO) for so many times in the past about the violations of this airline. And if there's any negligence or violation proven, we will certainly look into it and ask those concerned to rectify their errors," Marcos said in a statement.

"Allowing these small airlines to fly very old planes will sooner or later cause accidents," Paras said, recalling his objections to the LIA franchise during the previous Congress.

Marcos noted that the airline had been allowed to continue operations as well as expand flights to other provinces. She lamented that the crash would again hurt the local tourism industry.

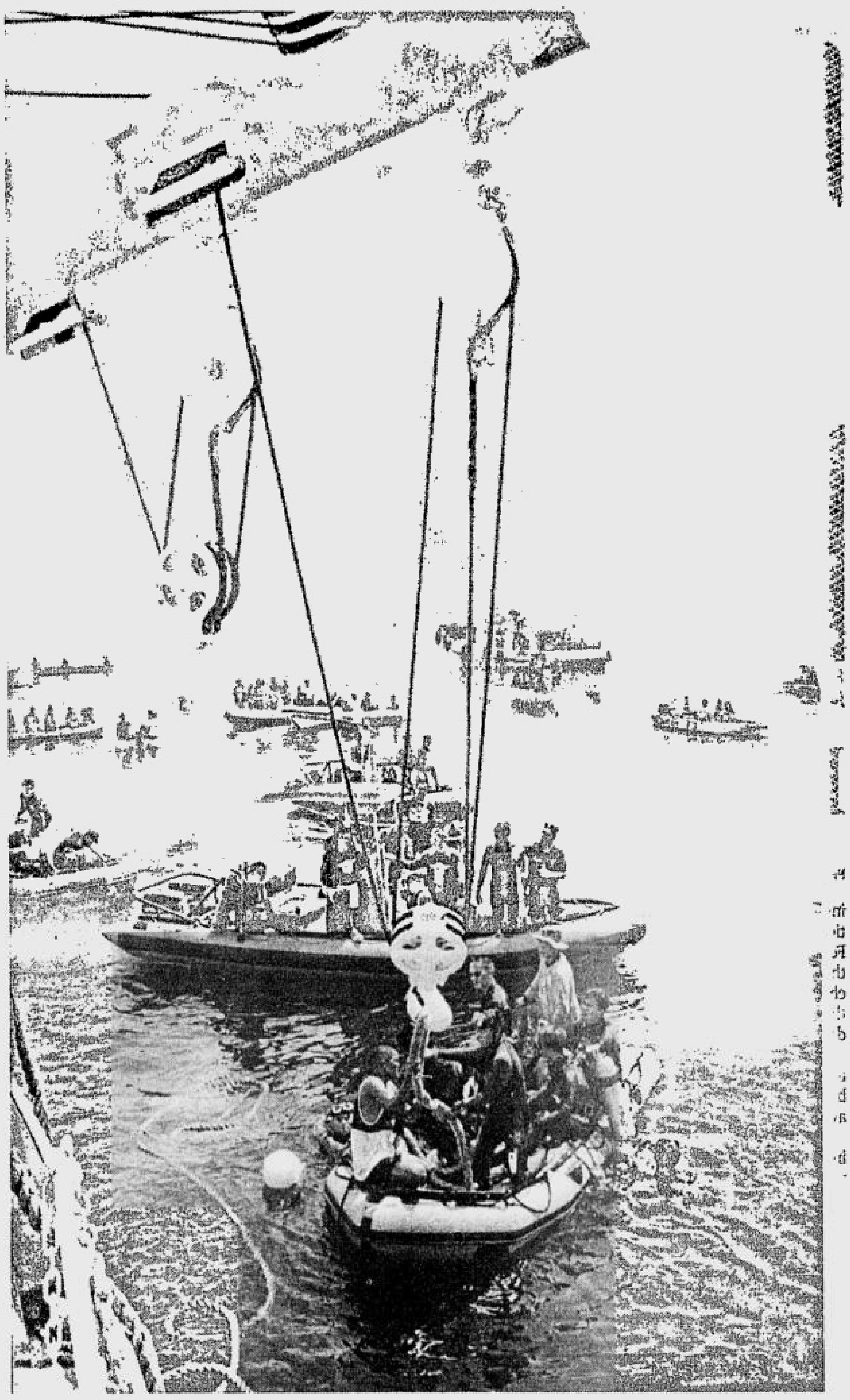
Paras said LIA planes and pilots were overworked because of the expanded operations that should not have been allowed.

He said it was apparently the same airline granted a franchise by the previous Congress upon the sponsorship of former Laoag Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas. He said he questioned then the airline's financial capability and the airworthiness of its planes.

But Yap defended the LIA, saying the age of the aircraft was not an absolute determinant of airworthiness and that even brand-new Boeing 747 jets could crash without warning.

"No aircraft is old if maintained properly," he said. "If engine trouble is the cause of the crash, this is quite hard to predict, even with an engine check before takeoff."

Yap also said investigation should not be that difficult because both the pilot and co-pilot had survived the crash. ***Reports from Christian V. Esguerra, Abigail L. Ho, Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Juliet L. Javellana, AP***



PHILIPPINE Coast Guard search and rescue teams lower pulleys to retrieve the Laoag Air Fokker plane after it crashed in Manila Bay.

PHOTOS BY ERIK ARAZAS

PARTS of the plane are fished out by Coast Guard search teams.

THE BODY of a passenger is brought to shore in a motorized boat.

Joggers, fishermen join rescue

From page A1

cle Tomas Bongcaras.

The efforts of the two joggers would not have been made public had not police asked the survivors to issue statements recounting the plane crash.

"They were low-profile," said Pasay police chief Oscar Catalan. "It's not every day that we see heroes like them."

"It was really hard to get to the passengers trapped inside the plane," Air Force Col. Ernesto Levanza, commander of the Coast Guard's air operations auxiliary force, told reporters. "It was very dark underneath. Water was all over the plane, and there was very little chance of survival for the other victims."

Fishermen who witnessed the crash were the first to get to the site, pluck survivors from the sea, and herd them into their boats.

Among the first to be rescued was Gemma Dasalla, who died before she could reach the nearby San Juan de Dios Hospital.

Four of the dead were children, including an 11-year-old boy whose body was found still bound to his seat.

More than two dozen boats, including Navy craft, outrigger canoes belonging to fishermen and pleasure craft from the nearby Manila Yacht Club, converged on the crash site. But the waters only yielded soaked luggage and metal fragments.

Divers pulled the dead body of a young boy from the sea and tenderly lifted him into the lap of a rescuer in an inflatable dinghy, who cradled the body as the boat moved away.

"My husband took three of the women (survivors) and we loaded them into our car," said Nerissa Abrico, who was jogging along the bay when she witnessed the crash.

"I was cradling one of them because she was so weak . . . She said all she kept thinking about were the children on the plane," Abrico added.

Popular

The plane was bound for Laoag City, which is popular among tourists from China and Hong Kong.

It has one of the largest casinos in the Philippines and has direct air links with Hong Kong.

Amid fears raised that the crash would further damage the Philippine tourism industry, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon issued a statement hailing the efforts of all those who helped in the rescue operations.

Gordon said he and other world tourism leaders still in Manila after attending a conference on terrorism last week believed that many more lives would have been lost if not for the swift rescue operations.

He said news about the various government agencies, civic groups, fishermen and other volunteers off the reclamation area drew applause from his counterparts.

"Planes crash and ships sink," Gordon said. "These things, regretfully, happen all over the world. What's important is the way governments and ordinary citizens respond to such disasters." ***With reports from Reuters and Jerome Aning***

Disaster on board: History of ill-fated Fokker 27 traced

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—The 44-seat Fokker 27 of Laoag International Airlines (LIA) that crashed yesterday was originally acquired by Philippine Airlines in 1960 and later sold to the Philippine Air Force.

In 1962, it was among the Fokker planes sold by the PAF to the Indonesia Air Force for its mapping operations. The New Zealand government eventually bought the planes but never used them because they were in bad shape.

The plane that crashed was among the four Fokker 27 aircraft bought by the LIA owner, Malaysian pilot Capt. Paul Ng, from the New Zealand government, according to Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan Jr.

"He (Ng) claims to be a good pilot, but he borrowed my plane back in 1989 and crashed it at the end of the runway of the Laoag airport," the lawmaker told the INQUIRER by phone.

Ablan said Ng laid the groundwork for his airline business when he found a Bangkok investor as his partner.

Ng eventually married Chinese-Filipino Shirley Ang, who belongs to a family of businessmen in Laoag.

The LIA, which launched its inaugural flight in October 1995, has been plying the Manila-Laoag-Basco route four times a week and also flies to the Visayas.

It operated chartered flights to Hong Kong in the late 1990s.

Ng, who was among those investigated by the Bureau of Immigration in 1999 for alleged human smuggling at the Laoag International Airport, has yet to issue a statement on the crash.

Laoag Mayor Roger Fariñas, a friend of the family, said he talked briefly with Ng yesterday morning but did not discuss the accident.

"He could still be in a state of shock," Fariñas said. "Let's give him some time to recover from this tragedy."

Yesterday's accident was reportedly the fourth for the Laoag-based airline in recent years.

"There was one Fokker 27 plane that made a belly landing two years ago at the Cebu airport after its landing gear collapsed," Ablan said.

On Jan. 16, 2000, one of its Fokker 27 planes bound for Basco and carrying 22 passengers and crew developed engine trouble a few minutes after takeoff from the Laoag airport.

When the pilot tried to reland the plane it hit two runway lights and overshot the strip, causing two tires to burst. A passenger was injured.

The Air Transportation Office consequently suspended the airline's operations for 15 days.

In April 1997, a mayor of a Batanes town was killed and five other passengers were hurt when the six-seat Cessna 210 plane that they had chartered from the airline crashed while landing on an airstrip in Itbayat.

On Dec. 4, 1998, the ATO grounded the LIA's Fokker 27 planes after finding that the airline had failed to comply with certain safety regulations.

The airline has four planes flying to various places in the country. But according to a woman at the LIA office with whom the INQUIRER spoke by phone, only three of the aircraft—two Fokker 27s and one 19-seat LED 410—were "flyable."

According to the Fokker Aircraft webpage, the Fokker 27 Friendship planes made most of their first flights in the 1960s. The LIA is using F27-Mk 600 types, which made their first flights in 1967. ***With a report from PDI Research***

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(In exact order)

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BASKETBALL: NBA - Portland vs Dallas, 9:30 a.m., Solar Sports

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Yearbook 2001- Oakland Raiders, 8:30 a.m., Denver Broncos, 9 a.m. (r), ESPN

NFL Blast, 9:30 a.m., ESPN

NFL - Oakland Raiders vs Denver Broncos, 10 a.m., ESPN

NFL Insider - The Art of the Quarterback, 1:30 p.m. (r), ESPN

PBA team owners unlikely to give players board seat

By June Navarro

EFFORTS to install a seat for the PBA Players Association in the all-powerful PBA Board of Governors are bound to receive a cold-shoulder treatment from the league's team owners, a highly reliable source yesterday told the INQUIRER.

"A dialogue between the board and the players is possible. The same thing goes to the transparency of the trust fund. But definitely not the creation of a seat in the board to cater for the players' union," said the source, who requested anonymity.

The PBA Players' Association, dormant for almost half a decade, reactivated itself last week as 23 PBA veteran players met and pondered on ways how to go about their trust fund and the viability of earning a seat in the board of governors.

"Unless the players own a stake in the league by buying a franchise, the board is exclusive only for team owners. It's their decision on how to run the league, it's their money," said the source.

He also blamed the players' group for failing to keep an eye on the monetary transactions involving the trust fund.

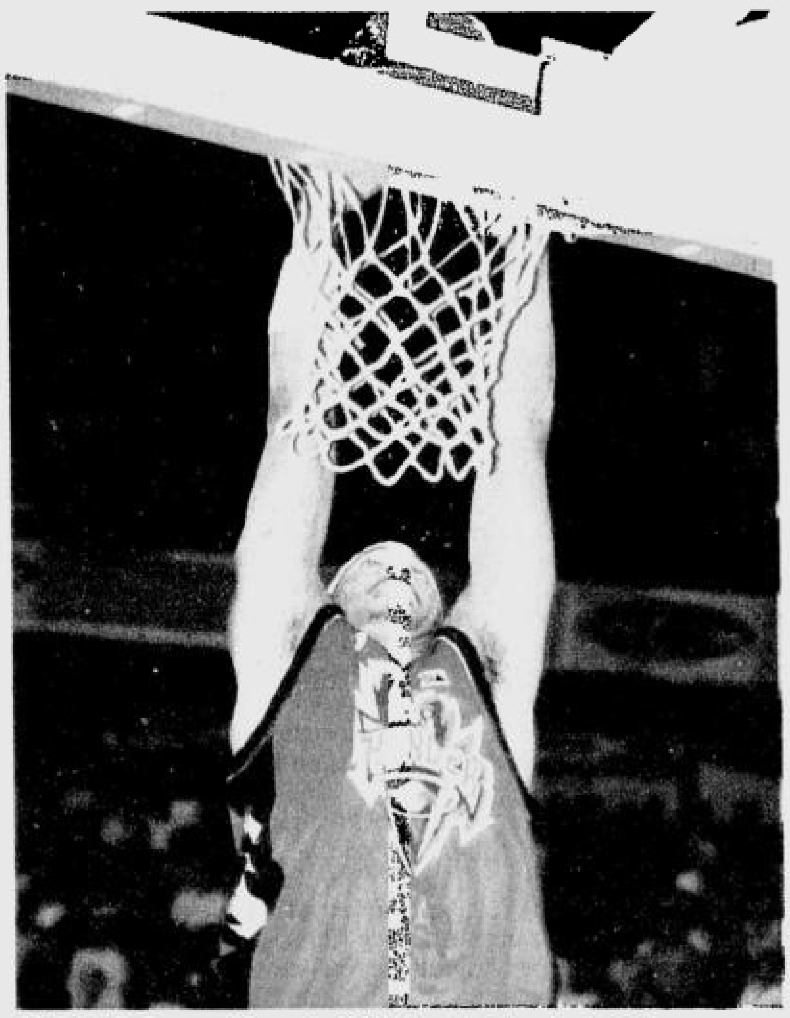
Handled by the Commissioner's Office, the players' trust fund is the amount collected from fines slapped on coaches and players and the proceeds of the PBA All Star Games.

"It's their fault. They've been inactive for so long. It's about time that they dig up the records and religiously monitor the trust fund," he said.

Alaska's Jojo Lastimosa, spokesperson of the players' union, claimed the amount could have ballooned to as much as P60 million. Back in 1993, Lastimosa said the trust fund had netted almost P14 million already.

Another concern which the players' union had raised was the 30-percent paycut on the maximum monthly salary of P500,000.

From half a million, the board recently pegged the players' maximum salary at P350 million a month.



RED Bull's Davonn Harp dunks during the Thunder's PBA game against the San Miguel Beermen Sunday. The Thunder won, 75-74, in overtime. VAL HANDUMON

Villanueva begs off from PBL stint

ENRICO Villanueva begged off yesterday from playing in the PBL, citing the wedding of his sister in the United States as his main reason.

Villanueva, who won the Most Valuable Player award playing for UAAP champion Ateneo, wrote Cecilio de Pedro of his desire to spend the rest of the year in America.

The 6-foot-6 Blue Eagle, a shoo-in for the PBA Draft next year, also told De Pedro he would join a basketball camp while he is on vacation in the United States.

Villanueva's letter:

"Dear Mr. De Pedro,

"First of all, I am deeply honored that you have not waned in your belief as far as my abilities as a player are concerned. Indeed, it is a player's lifetime dream that his talent is appreciated and longed-for by a prestigious organization such as yours.

"But as much as I want to accept your offer to play for you again for this coming conference, I am constrained by the call of family.

"My sister is getting married in the United States. This, however, will unfortunately coincide with my playing stint on your PBL team, which begins on November 4. In resolving this dilemma, I am held back by the firm promise I had made to my sister to be in her wedding. It is a promise I cannot break like a true family member would do to a dear kin. Marriage vows happen only once, it is a long-cherished Filipino tradition that you have to be present for the occasion.

VILLANUEVA

"In the same breath, I will use my sister's wedding in the US as a springboard for my long overdue rest. It's been seven straight years that I played for Ateneo. And that's not including the many fruitful seasons playing for you in the PBL. My, how time really flies. The body muscles now creak and long for a respite. Notwithstanding this. I have put in mind my desire to persist in keeping in shape and improving my game. In fact, I have set my sights on attending the Big Man's Camp to do just this. I will also take this time to mentally prepare myself to play in a more competitive league this January 2003.

"Faced now with this decision, I am hit hard with the full realization of my responsibilities to my family. I have been immersed in basketball all throughout my adolescence—thus I sincerely believe how valuable the next few months I will spend with my family will be.

"Let me end by reiterating my wholehearted gratitude for all the help you have showered not only upon me but also to the entire Ateneo Family. I am deeply humbled and apologetic on this decision but I confidently believe that I owe it to my family and to myself.

"If given another chance to work with you in the future, I will be more than very willing. With god's graces, as usual.

"Thank you so much and more power."

LGBA derby starts today

COCKFIGHTING buffs from Metro Manila and nearby provinces are expected to troop back to Mandaluyong Coliseum as the "Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 3rd Series 2002 6-Stag Derby" gets going today.

Attention will be focused on the fierce competition for LGBA's Breeder of the Year plum, where the winner stand to receive P50,000.

After two derbies, the frontrunners are Rep. Lawrence Wacnang of Kalinga Apayao (EDL Crowsland Excellence 1, 11 points); Edmund Yasay of Batangas (Wild Harvester, 9); Edwin Aranez and Raffy Campos of Batangas (Red, 9); Bobby del Rosario and Gov. Raul Molintas of Baguio (Mangzee Jediking Mountaineer III, 9); Pol Estrellado of Laguna (San Pablo Heat II, 8); Maj. Bobby Doromal and Buddy Robregado of Cavite (Buddy and Bob I, 8); former Congressman Peping Cojuangco of Tarlac (CAT Stinger JBB, 7.5) and Blandy Tolentino of Laguna (San Pablo Heat III, 7.5).

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Go TK wants copy of POC letter to SEA Games organizers

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DETERMINED to retain the country's marathon titles in the Southeast Asian Games, the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association yesterday asked the Philippine Olympic Committee for a copy of its supposed letter of appeal to the Vietnam SEAG organizers.

In a letter sent to POC president Celso Dayrit, athletics chief Go Teng Kok requested for a copy of Dayrit's appeal in order to "consolidate the petition which will be made by the Patafa through the Asian Athletics Association."

Dayrit last week was quoted in a radio interview that he wrote a letter of appeal for marathon's inclusion in his capacity as POC president.

In the same radio interview with dzSR, Dayrit said he wrote a separate letter of appeal to the Vietnamese officials on behalf of bowling and golf as a SEA Games Federation official.

The final decision on what events to be played next year in the cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh will be known on or before Dec. 5.

Dayrit could not be reached for comment, but POC officials yesterday confirmed that he indeed wrote a separate plea for marathon before the SEAG organizers.

Go said POC's backing is vital in the petition which will be filed by the Patafa through the AAA. It will have to be signed by at least seven AAA members from Southeast Asia.

An event needs at least four countries for it to be included in the SEA Games.

The athletics boss said Vietnam has staged the Hanoi International Marathon.

"Marathon is part of the track and field competitions, and track and field is one of the two requisite events in the Olympics," said Go. "I believe SEA Games organizers will understand that no multi-event is complete without a marathon."

The Philippines won the men's and women's marathon events in the Kuala Lumpur SEA Games last year through Christabel Martes and Roy Vence.

Their victories raised the country's gold haul to three.

The country placed fifth in the KL Games, behind Malaysia with 111 golds, Thailand 103, Indonedia 72 and Vietnam 33.

Vietnam, which has created a stir in the SEA community by wantonly taking out traditional SEAG events in place of new ones, is expected to go all out for the overall supremacy.

"We are certainly going to face tough opposition in the Vietnam, that's reason enough that we should fight for it," said Go. "If Vietnam would allow marathon, good. If not, at least we did everything to defend our gold medals."

GO

Spring Oil tops Kwarta

CEBU CITY–Reigning national champion Spring Cooking Oil got off to a big start in the CBL (Cebu Basketball league) Hoop Encounter last Sunday by downing top-rated ML Kwarta Padala, 78-74, at the Cebu Coliseum here.

Braulio Lim led four others who scored in double figures as the Cooking Oil Masters held off the Cebuanos before a huge opening-day crowd. ML Kwarta Padala was bannered by Peter Naron and four other former MBA stars.

Lim tallied 16 points and got able support from Rodel Manuel, who scored 15; Tyrone Bautista (12), Dave Bautista (10) and Lito Saygo (10).

"I admire the boys for their gutsy performance," said Spring Cooking Oil team owner Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, the national shooting champion. "It's a big boost to their title aspirations."

Two other Cebu teams—M. Lhuillier and University of the Visayas—prevailed in the other games.

The Jewellers toppled Forward Taguig, 97-86, while the Green Lancers spilled the University of San Jose-Recoletos Jaguars, 80-77.

Spring was playing the Green Lancers late yesterday.

Scores:

SPRING 78–Lim 16, Manuel 15, T. Bautista 12, D. Bautista 1o, Saygo 1o, Canoza 5, Garcia 3, Buendia 3, Ricafuente 2, Habelito 2

ML KWARTA 74–Laygo 21, Manalac 14, Santos 12, Naron 9, Co 7, Lumantas 6, De Jesus 4, Tagulnes 2

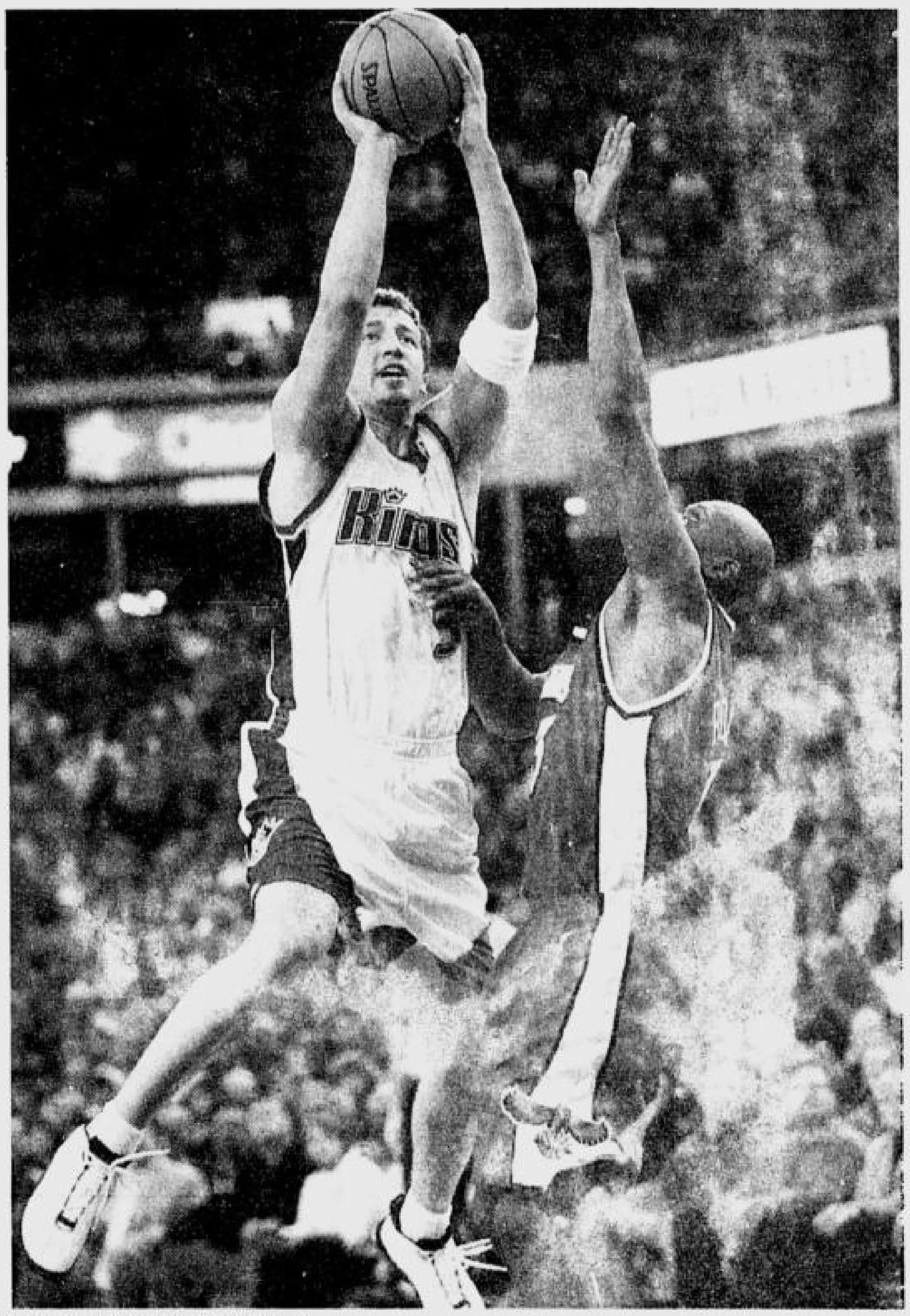
Quarterscores: 18-25, 44-all, 64-63, 78-74

Table tennis tilt

THE NEW Marikina Table Tennis Club, Inc. (Marittec) announced the opening of the 3rd National Table Tennis Age Group Championships on Nov. 16-17 at the Marikina Sports Park.

The tournament will be hosted by Marittec under the authority granted by the Table Tennis Association of the Philipines (Tatap).

For details, call Tatap at tel. 522-1885.



TOWERING TURKOGLU
Sacramento Kings' guard Hedo Turkoglu (left) attempts a shot against Atlanta Hawks' forward Glenn Robinson yesterday during the fourth period at the Arco Arena in Sacramento, California. Sacramento won, 105-97. Other results: New Orleans defeated New York in overtime, 97-91; Los Angeles beat Orlando, 120-117. AFP

Bustamante rules 9-ball, bags ₱.52M

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante scored another victory for the year when he defeated Ralf Souquet recently to take the IBC 2002 Tokyo 9-ball Open championship.

Bustamante forged a tie-break in the first set before wrapping it up, 7-6. But the Filipino cue artist went for the kill in the second set with a 6-2 win to take the $10,000 (₱.52M) top purse.

Souquet went home with $5,000, while Efren "Bata" Reyes and Mika Immonen tied for third to collect $3,300 each.

Bustamante first beat Italian Fabio Petroni, two sets to one before facing off with the other Filipino billiards great, Reyes.

Reyes won the first set, 6-3, but Bustamante recovered to capture the second and third sets with the score of 6-2 and 6-4.

Souquet, who won the event the last two years without losing a set, lost it all as Bustamante imposed his big breaks.

Stags, Eagles tackle separate rivals today

GAMES TODAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
2 p.m.– SSC vs PSBA
4 p.m.– Ateneo vs West Negros

THE BEST of the UAAP and NCAA strut their stuff today when the Champions League 2002 goes into Day Two of the knockout elimination at the Makati Coliseum.

San Sebastian College battles Philippine School of Business Administration at 2 p.m., while Ateneo meets West Negros University at 4 p.m.

The Stags, reigning NCAA title-holder, are expected to have their hands full against Julius Peñaranda's PSBA Jaguars, with SSC coach Turo Valenzona banking on his team's experience and depth to carry them through.

Bannering SSC are Christian Coronel, Nurjanjam Alfad, Leomar Najorda, Paul Reguerra and Clark Moore.

In the main game, the Blue Eagles of coach Joel Banal, still in euphoria after their stunning victory over archrival De La Salle in the UAAP finals, are not expected to encounter much problem with West Negros although big boy Enrico Villanueva, Rich Alvarez, LA Tenorio, Wesley Gonzales and Larry Fonacier will make sure Ateneo gets a quick and easy passage to the quarterfinals.

Already in the round of eight are University of Santo Tomas and FEU, which replaced La Salle.

Welcoat defense spells doom for Shark

GAMES THURSDAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
3 p.m.– John O vs Dazz
5 p.m.– Montaña vs Blu

By Dennis U. Eroa

WELCOAT used a huge defensive wall to frustrate Cheeseballs-Shark, 67-62, last night and seize the solo lead with their second straight win in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

The Paintmasters encountered stiff opposition from the Cheeseballs but found the lift from the outstanding performances of Jean Pingres, Rommel Adducul and Ronald Tubid in the homestretch.

Cheeseballs-Shark was still ahead, 62-57, when Adducul and company clamped down on defense, forcing the Cheeseballs to make poor shots in the final four minutes of action.

As the Cheeseballs struggled, Adducul and Tubid dropped a closing 10-point bomb which spelled doom for their rivals.

Earlier, seven men finished in double figures as ICTSI-La Salle entered the win-column with a 94-68 drubbing of Sunkist.

ICTSI, Cheeseballs, Montaña and LBC Batangas now carry identical 1-1 win-loss records.

Scores:

ICTSI 94–Cardona 16, Yeo 15, Uy 11, Aldeguer 11, Dacla 11, Sta. Maria 10, Hugnatan 10, Sharma 4, Johnson 3, Franco 2, Gavino 1.

SUNKIST 68–Tan 12, Booker 11, Wilson 8, Estrada 8, Alminario 8, Cordero 8, Butel 3, Oreta 3, Menor 3, Masbang 2, Santos 0, Omiping 0, Hubalde 0.

Quarters: 28-10, 52-31, 74-44, 94-68

Picaa returns

THE PICAA (Philippine Integrated Chinese Athletic Association) Invitational Cup returns to the basketball calendar when it is held Nov. 25 to Dec. 12 at the Manila Downtown YMCA Gym.

Spearheading the revival of the tournament, which has been moribund the past four years, is Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim, who has agreed to be the tournament director.

Picaa president Alvin Tai Lian has given his full support to the cagefest.

Contact Eric Robles for details at tel. 5256780 or cell 0917-9049637.

Belgian drivers reign

BELGIAN drivers Martin Quartie and Peter Desmet lived to their lofty billing in the Petron Rally Pilipinas as the guest racers wrested the top two spots in the first leg of the country's biggest racing event over the weekend at the Subic Remifield parking lot.

Aided by his navigator Nico Artois, Quartier cranked up an impressive time of one hour, four minutes and 50 seconds (1:04.50) to grab the top position in the initial leg of the two-day event sponsored by Petron Corporation and Petron Blaze in cooperation with Honda Cars Phils., the official car; SMBA, DOT, Pagcor, Automobile Association of the Phils., Yokohama Tires and Roadwise Motoring School.

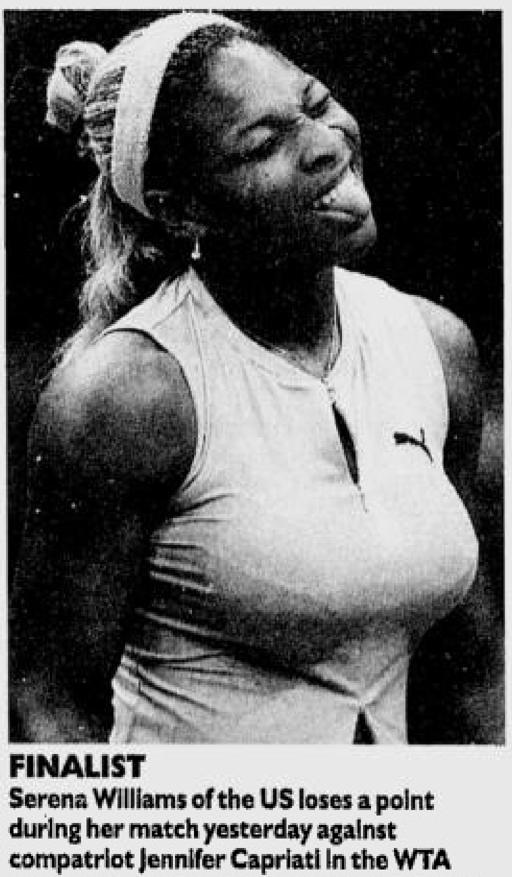
Desmet and co-driver Franky Beel, on the other hand, finished the 10-stage first leg in 1:05.28 followed by local hero Vip Isada and co-driver Robbie Hermoso (1:12.22), Felix Marinas and Charlie Cruz (1:12.34), Carlo Gutang and Choy Mabunay (1:12.58).

Filipino chessers 37th

BLED, Slovenia—The Philippine men's team surprisingly bowed to Bangladesh, 2.5-1.5, in the 14th and final round Sunday and wound up tied for 37th place in the 35th Chess Olympiad with a total of 30.5 points.

GM Eugene Torre absorbed his fifth defeat while Mark Paragua dropped his bid for a GM result with his second loss as the Filipinos suffered their worst performance in the biennial event won by the Russians.

IM Nelson Mariano II and GM Joey Antonio, however, kept their clean slate intact by beating and drawing with their respective opponents.



FINALIST
Serena Williams of the US loses a point during her match yesterday against compatriot Jennifer Capriati in the WTA tennis semi-finals at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. Williams won 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.She will dispute the crown with Kim Clijsters, who advanced when Venus Williams was felled by a leg strain with Kim ahead, 5-0, in the first set. AFP

PCA, Valle Verde netters down Interclub opponents

TOP seed Philippine Columbian Association, No. 2 Valle Verde, No. 3 Hillsborough and No. 4 Veterans prevailed last Saturday in the PCA Open Interclub Team Tennis at the PCA courts.

PCA, banneredby Ed Reyes, Conrad Francisco, Hector Dimacali, Albert Chiu, Beeyong Sison and Charlie Niu defeated Accel, 3-2, while Valle Verde banked on Poppet Lizardo, Karl Santamaria, Rey Felix, Mel Miguel, Emil Erum and Ted Banas to post a 3-2 decision over Eusebio.

Hillsborough downed Celebrity, 4-1, thru the efforts of Tonico Climent, Jojo Tomacruz, Ronnie Tambunting, Morris Melendrez, Florencio Bulaong, Noel Tambunting, Jackie Tomacruz and Gerard Maronilla.

Veterans capitalized on Mark Grajeda, Randy de Guzman, Gary Tria, Eymard Capinpin, Jun Tongco and Albert Lim to beat University of the Philippines, 3-2.

Raymond Suarez, the star of the 1998 RP Davis Cup team against Japan, powered Manila Polo Club to a 4-1 conquest of UP last Sunday. Other winners were Villamor over Eusebio, 5-0, All-Mandaluyong over Accel, 4-1, and Camp Aguinaldo over Celebrity.

Indian cops tennis singles

UNSEEDED Sania Mirza of India endured a hurting right elbow to win the singles title in the US$10,000 Union Cement ITF-Philippines Women's Circuit 1 yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Mirza outplayed fifth seed and world No. 604 Wang I-ting of Chinese-Taipei, 2-6, 6-4, 7-5 to capture her second title after the $10,000 Hyderabad event two months ago.

Kim Kilsdonk of the Netherlands and Dianne Matias of the United States scored a 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 win over Chinese Dong Yan-Hua and Zhang Yao to win the doubles title and US$650 in this event sponsored by the ITF Grand Slam Development Fund, Wilson balls, Manila Midtown Hotel and Philippine Sports Commission.

"I tried to play good despite my hurting elbow. I had difficulty serving and I couldn't hit winners," said Mirza, who twice competed in the Mitsubishi International Juniors here in Manila.

RP dance athletes win

VETERAN internationalists Bong Marquez and Belinda Adora did the country proud once more by winning the gold medal in amateur Latin category of the Asian Pacific Dancesport Championships last Saturday at the Philsports Arena.

Another Filipino dance couple-Rener Mercado, 14, and 12-year-old Judith Anne Melencio—also won the gold in the junior Latin event, asserting the country's dominance of the IDSF Latin discipline where it captured two of three gold medals at stake. John Erolle Melencio and Krystel Dame Tadeo finished second in the youth Latin category.

Green Bay routs Detroit

GREEN BAY, Wisconsin—Brett Favre sparked National Football League pace-setter Green Bay to a seventh consecutive victory here Sunday while Issac Bruce celebrated his 30th birthday by rallying St. Louis to victory.

Favre completed 22-of-31 passes for 295 yards in the first half of Green Bay's 40-14 rout of Detroit while Bruce caught two touchdowns in the final 3:06 to rally the Rams past visiting San Diego 28-24.

Indianapolis defeated host Philadelphia 35-13 in a showdown of division leaders while Pittsburgh played Atlanta to a 34-34 draw, the first NFL deadlock since 1997, in other American football matchups. *AFP*

RIVIERA'S COUPLES COURSE

U-Bix Celebrity today gathers top pros

THE VIP Celebrity Pro-Am set for today has gathered virtually all of the country's top pros teeing off at Riviera's Couples in Silang, Cavite.

The newly-launched Toyota Revo will be staked as a hole-in-one prize, courtesy of Toyota Motor Philippines Inc. through Toyota executives Danny Isla and Ariel de Jesus.

Today's 18-hole event will kick off the P1-million U-Bix Riviera National Pro-Am, a sequel to last year's inagural that revived the famous Fort Bonifacio Pro-Am through the initiative of U-Bix top honcho Bert Bravo.

The National Golf Associaton of the Philippines is the spearhead organization of the tournament won last year by Noli Kempis and his amateur partner Don Erwin Vinluan at Riviera's Langer.

There will be a cut-off in the 72-hole tournament after 54 holes ending on Saturday.

Today's 18-hole Celebrity Pro-Am will be bannered by leading businessmen and top executives paired with top professionals.

Preceding the competition will be the hitting of ceremonial drives to officially start the U-Bix-Riviera National Pro-Am.

Bravo, a perennial golf patron starting with the Konica Manila Open in 1995 at the Manila Golf Club won by Ernie Rellon, will hit the first tee shot.

He will be followed by NGAP vice president, Vice Admiral Louie Fernandez, Konica's Mitsuhiro Hasegawa, NGAP secretary general Benny Gopez and the representatives of San Miguel Corp. and Pagcor.

Aside from U-Bix Corporation and Konica, the other major sponsors are Caffé Appassionato, Toyota Motors Philippines Inc., San Miguel Corp., Pagcor, Mizuno, DHL-WWW Express, the Philippine Sports Commission, Bravo Golf and Grappa's.

"It is with distinct honor once again that we launch this tournament for our pros," said Bravo. "U-Bix has always been an ally of our golfers and I take pride in being a part of their struggle to attain success and financial stability."

Said vice admiral Fernandez: "We continue the tradition left behind by the Fort Bonifacio Pro-Am because its prestige has become part of Philippine golf lore. I thank our sponsors for supporting a noble project."

The Boni Pro-Am that began in 1966 was a regular part of what was then known as the Philippine Golf Circuit bankrolled annually by San Miguel Corporation. The U-Bix-Riviera Pro-Am allows a professional and an amateur to form a team. The format is one-ball, twosome. This means the members must alternately hit only one ball from the tee until it is holed out.

The former champions of the Fort Bonifacio Pro-Am were Ben Arda, Mario Siodina, Eleuterio "Caloy" Nival, Sonny Orquiza, Pastor Domingo and Vic Allin. *Al S. Mendoza*

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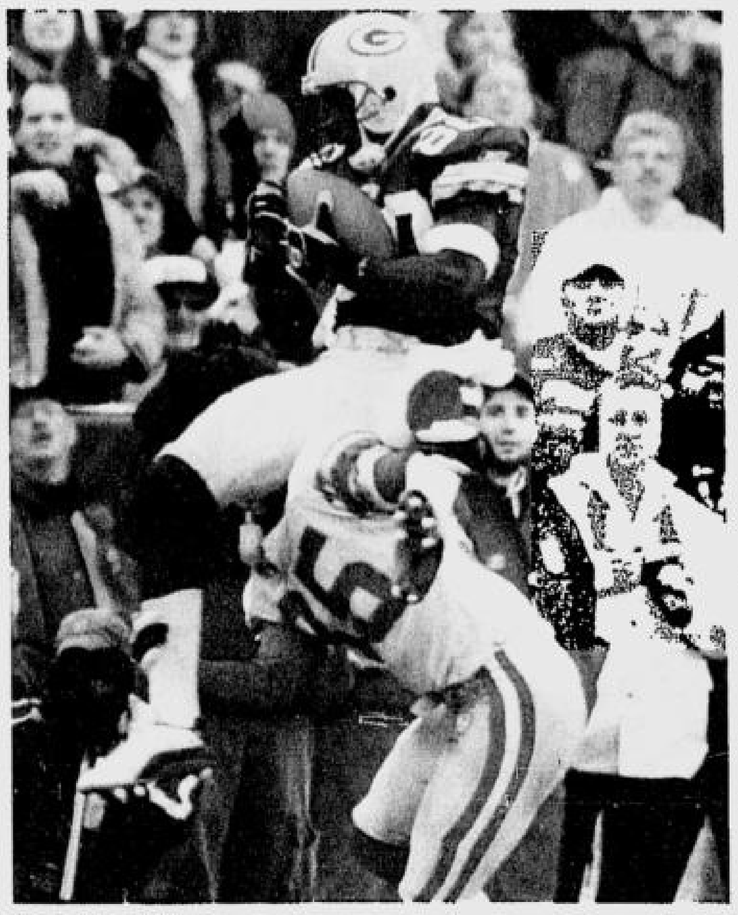
Zoeller wins anew

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN, Arizona—Fuzzy Zoeller regained the Senior Slam lead on the 15th hole and held on to win by one stroke on Sunday. Zoeller edged Don Pooley to win $300,000 in the tournament which featured this year's Senior major championship winners. Stewart Ginn finished three strokes back, and Jim Thorpe was seven back. "When you play against the best, it brings the best out in everybody," said Zoeller, the Senior PGA Championship winner.



BIG CATCH AP

Green Bay Packers' receiver Donald Driver (80) leaps over Detroit Lions' Andre Goodman (35) for a catch in the first quarter Sunday in the National Football League in Green Bay, Wisconsin. *Story on A/23.*

'Young guns' golf set Dec. 8

"YOUNG Guns at Sta. Elena," a tournament featuring the Philippines' golf champions of the future, will be held on Dec. 8 at Sta. Elena.

The one-day event will be staged by Share Exchange Brokers in support of the future of golf in the Philippines and in response to the lack of tournament opportunities for the "young guns" in the country.

Pre-registration has begun for boys' (ages 6-and-under to 12 years old) and girls (ages 8-and-under to 12). For information please call Jan at Share Exchange Brokers 809-8233 and 809-8263; or text (0918) 922-7102; (0918) 900-3066; and (0918) 901-6563.

"Young Guns at Sta. Elena" is a project of Share Exchange Brokers, in cooperation with Sta. Elena, Gatorade, Nestle's, Milo, The Little Gym, Mr. Egay San Luis, McDonald's, For-Mor, Suarez and Sons, Pisanti, Maya Advertising, Nissan Gallery, Golf Depot, Production Village Corporation, Media Circuit Incorporated and The Bridge School.

Heidi top seed at Wack Wack

REIGNING national champion Heidi Chua seeks another major crown at her home course against a horde of challengers led by ex-pro Divina Delasin in the 1st Manila Ladies Amateur Open starting today at Wack Wack West.

CHUA

All of the country's top female shotmakers are joining the 54 hole tourney being staged by Manila Lady Golfers Foundation, Inc. not just for talent development but also to raise funds for the special cause of fighting abuse against women and children.

Aside from Delasin, younger sister of LPGA standout Dorothy, other potential threats to Chua's bid are Carmelette Villaroman, Aileen Yao, Jayvie Agojo, Tracy Locsin, Lora Roberto, Ia Bakunawa, Carina Ricamonte, Lucy Landicho, and Matet Salivio.

Event sponsors are Philippine Bank of Communications, Splash Corp., Taylor Made adidas, Pagcor, Unilever, Welch, Jardin de Paraiso, Brittany, Fortune Tobacco, San Miguel Corp., Orocan, Red Ribbon, Shangrila Makati, Summit Sports and Spa in Quezon City, Godiva, Mango, Discovery Suites Ortigas, Pan Pacific Hotel in Ermita, Technomed, ATR Torres Wines Inc., Coco Gem, Air Philippines, Bingo Bonanza, GNC, Prudential Guarantee and Assurance, Inc. Nestea and Pac-Sports.

Beneficiaries of the event include the Quezon Memorial Hospital and foundations for women and children.

Change

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

A FRIEND of mine said he just lost his golf swing.

"I'm quitting the game," he said.

The culprit was a teaching pro at the driving range.

"I don't know this kid," he said. "He sidled up to me. Said I was doing it wrong. After a few tips, I got convinced. I overhauled my swing."

I was stunned. My friend is a single-digit handicapper. He won the National Seniors crown only a while back.

"I can't understand it," he said. "The kid talked sense. But when I heeded his tips, I couldn't do it right."

My friend said several nights after the golf clinic, he met an old acquaintance.

"He was angry," he said of his friend. "He said why must I change my swing after being with it for almost 50 years."

Did he not make sense?

"Yes, but the kid also has a point," my friend said. "He said we should all be receptive to change, whether we are old or not."

I cited the case of dear, ole Nick Joaquin, the greatest living Filipino writer.

"When the computer arrived, Nick nixed it," I told my friend. "Nick said why should he dump his typewriter, the one weapon that he had used to produce one masterpiece after another for decades, for a new gadget that is totally Greek to him."

My friend didn't buy that.

"Well, that's the trouble sometimes with our senior citizens," said my friend, who is sixtyish. "They refuse change. That's one reason progress gets stymied most of the time; our tendency to reject change is the culprit."

Will Jack Nicklaus, past 50 or something, win the US Masters again if he changes his swing?

Will Michael Jordan, at 39, win his 7th NBA ring if he changes his pull-up, fadeaway jumper?

Oh, never mind. Your answer is of no interest to my friend.

Do chess grandmasters outgrow their game?

No, because poets never run out of rhyme.

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Christmas or not, BF's drive goes on

By Leila B. Salaverria

FACING a bleak Christmas, vendors again sought a dialogue with the Metro Manila Development Authority chair yesterday to dissuade the agency from carrying out its tough sidewalk clearing campaign.

But MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando again ruled out a dialogue and told the vendors there would be no letup in the clearing campaign, especially during the holidays when vendors and flea markets are expected to abound.

"Even if it is Christmas, vendors can't stay on the sidewalks," he said yesterday.

In fact, Fernando said, he is ready to spray kerosene on the vendors' goods and is only waiting for an opportune moment to do so.

"I'm now considering using kerosene so that our work would be easier and violence could be prevented," he told reporters.

He explained that with the spraying of kerosene, there will be no need for physical contact between the MMDA personnel and the vendors, and patrons of sidewalk vendors will be discouraged from buying the kerosene-soaked wares as well.

Fernando also said he has received reports that there are people who pretend to be MMDA personnel and confiscate vendors' wares, and the use of kerosene will also put a stop to this.

He said tension between sidewalk vendors and MMDA personnel has been growing. He told reporters how the windows of newly acquired buses of the MMDA have been broken because of vendors.

An MMDA worker was hospitalized when a bottle hit him in the face during a sidewalk clearing operation, he added.

Members of the Metro Manila Vendors Association and running priest Robert Reyes held a rally in

CHRISTMAS/ A26

DIAZ

SERVO

Lav Diaz's 5-hour epic, actors win in Brussels fest

By Leah Salterio

"BATANG West Side," the five-hour, uncompromising movie directed by Lav Diaz, won the best picture award in the Brussels International Film Festival Sunday night, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

Joel Torre and Yul Servo shared best actor honors.

Diaz received the best picture trophy, together with "Batang West Side" producer Tony Veloria. Servo was also in Brussels to accept his award.

It was the first time a Filipino movie won the best picture award in the Brussels film fest.

Described as "the longest Southeast Asian film ever made," "Batang West Side" is about the investigation of the murder of a young Filipino expatriate in New York. It touches on different periods in Philippine history as well as drugs, gangland wars, cultural alienation, abuse and exploitation, guilt and redemption.

It is acknowledged as the most experimental Filipino movie since Mike de Leon's "Bayaning Third World" in 1999.

It was filmed in New Jersey with a budget of P80 million. Preparations took three years, but the actual shooting was completed in only two months.

Only five percent of the film was shot on digital video, the rest on 35mm.

Last April, "Batang West Side" won the top prize in the 15th Singapore International Film Festival. The award was announced during the Silver Screen Awards Ball, the gala event that closed the festival.

Rejected

"Batang West Side" had a commercial screening during last year's Cinemanila International Film Festival.

The festival gave the best actor award to four of the movie's cast members—Torre, Servo, Arthur Acuña and Ruben Tizon.

Ironically, the film was rejected in the 2000 Metro Manila Film Festival and took a long time to be distributed anywhere in the country. Regal Films matriarch

LAV/ A26

- Plastic bags blamed for flooding /A26
- Dengue alert in Caloocan /A26
- Ex-vice mayor's mate hangs self /A26

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Cowboy Grill Novaliches, Quezon City	MR. ROXY BROWNIE / MUSIC CIRCUIT	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 936.9757
TIA MARIA'S Jupiter St. Makati City	SOUL DRIVE CITY BORN	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 890.4735
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Plastic bags blamed for flooding

By Leila B. Salaverria

PLASTIC bags of all shapes and sizes caused the flooding that in turn caused the massive traffic jam that stranded hundreds of motorists and commuters on Friday along the Quezon City to Ayala Avenue stretch of Edsa, according to Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

Fernando yesterday said a bit of flooding in Quezon City brought about by heavy rains was enough to snarl traffic for several hours.

He said that garbage caused the flooding, particularly the plastic bags that clogged creeks.

"It's the pieces of plastic that jam the inlets," Fernando told reporters. "I've instructed (the MMDA workers) that when it rains, they should go (and clear) the inlets immediately."

But the MMDA chair said that it would be a lot better if residents were more responsible in disposing their garbage.

"I appeal to the people to look after the inlets and not throw garbage in there," he said.

People on their way home or on their way to a night out on Friday were stuck in traffic for several hours along Edsa, one of the busiest thoroughfares in Metro Manila, after a sudden heavy downpour in the afternoon.

Even if only a few streets were flooded, it was enough to cause a traffic build up on other roads in Metro Manila.

Former vice mayor's partner hangs self in Quezon City

By Agnes Donato

THE LIVE-IN partner of a former vice mayor of Marilao town in Bulacan hanged herself in Quezon City yesterday morning.

Karen Rellora, 23, was already dead when her partner Renato del Rosario, 45, found her body at about 10:30 a.m. yesterday in the bathroom of Rellora's house in Murphy, Cubao, police said.

PO2 Joseph Madrid said Del Rosario introduced himself to police as a former Marilao, Bulacan vice mayor and a former narcotics agent.

Del Rosario told police he was roused from sleep when one of his children by Rellora started calling out for her.

The child told Del Rosario that Rellora had gone to the bathroom. When Del Rosario knocked on the bathroom door, nobody answered so he forced the door open and found the woman dead.

Del Rosario said he and Rellora had been living together since the victim was 16 years old.

They were planning to get married in a few days, he told PO2 Madrid said.

Reporter sues policeman

By Jerome Aning

A TABLOID reporter covering Manila City Hall has filed a complaint against a policeman for threatening him with a gun and kicking him in Malate last Nov. 7.

Kenneth Montegrande, 20, a reporter of RP Daily Expose, said the policeman appeared drunk when he was driving his blue Nissan pickup (WCJ-352), with which he almost hit the reporter and his friend along the Roxas Boulevard service road about 9:30 p.m.

Montegrande said he then saw the pickup parked in front of an off-track betting station on nearby Cuarteles Street, where the policeman stopped to place a bet.

Montegrande approached the pickup and told the driver in Filipino, "Boss, next time, please drive carefully because you might hurt someone."

But instead of apologizing, the man became furious, introduced himself as a policeman, drew a firearm and threatened to shoot the reporter in front of many residents in the area, Montegrande said.

He said he took out his own press ID and identified himself as a reporter. But this only provoked the suspect, who began to kick him in the leg, Montegrande said.

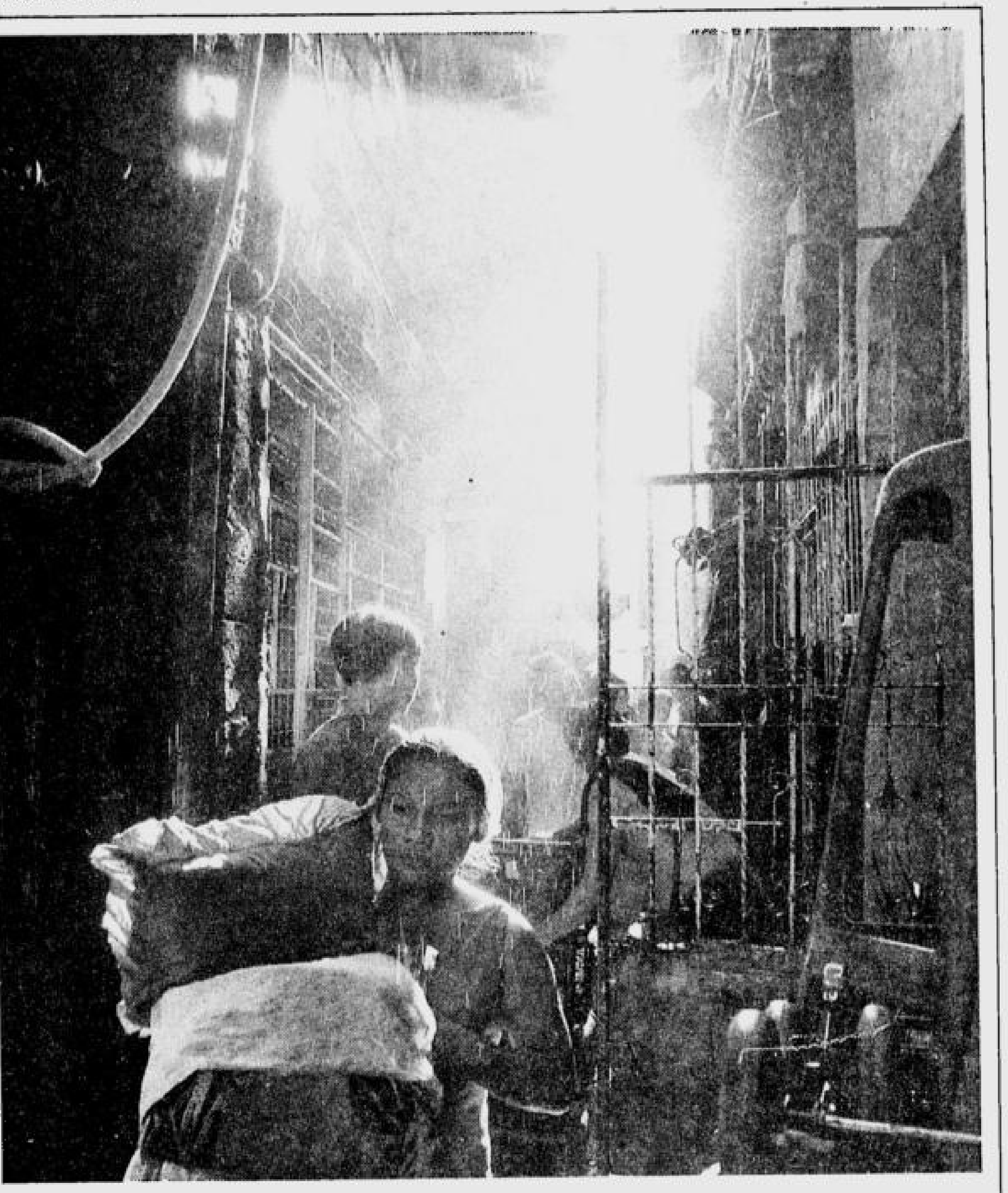
Witnesses dragged Montegrande from the scene and took him home.

Montegrande said the policeman also used a gun to threaten his uncle, who tried to speak to the officer.

The reporter said the policeman even went to his house and dared him to come out. The policeman left when Montegrande did not come out of the house.

Montegrande filed his complaint before the Western Police District's special operations group.

Police are now tracking down the suspect through his pickup's license plates.



HER HOUSE ON FIRE

Grim-faced but determined, a woman carries her belongings away from her house while neighbors try to put out the fire. The blaze broke out in the five-story apartment building in Sto. Niño, Pasay City yesterday morning.

VAL HANDUMON

Dengue alert in Caloocan

By Tina Santos

DENGUE fever has stricken a number of students in Caloocan City's largest public high school, according to Caloocan High School acting administrator Dario Rebuelta.

Continuous rain and uncollected garbage in the city apparently brought on the onslaught of the deadly disease that could be contracted through the bites of a certain type of mosquito.

Rebuelta yesterday said he had supervised fumigation to prevent the outbreak of the disease.

Thousands of students yesterday were evacuated from the three major buildings of the Caloocan City High School compound, Rebuelta said.

But he could not say how many students had been hit by dengue fever.

Caloocan High School is said to have more than 25,000 students.

Rebuelta, a physics teacher, said the continuous rains in the flood-prone city left puddles of water which served as breeding ground for the dengue mosquito.

The threat of dengue is aggravated by the heaps of uncollected garbage outside the school, he added.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Caloocan health officials to confirm Rebuelta's reports, but no official was available for comment.

Coup talk the work of idle minds

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

WHEN military rascals are hatching a coup, they're very quiet about it. By the time those in power learn about it, the power grab is already taking place.

That was what happened in previous attempted power grabs. The "coup pals" kept their plans secret until the last minute.

So that when retired Gen. Lisandro "Boy" Abadia came out with the report of a supposed coup to take place in December, everybody except himself and probably his wife laughed.

* * *

The Armed Forces chief of staff during the time of President Cory Aquino said that he was getting calls from military junior officers involved in recruiting people to their cause.

Why should a retired general be made part of the plot when he is no longer in power?

Besides, when Abadia was the AFP chief of staff he didn't inspire the reverence and awe of subordinates. If he was a "little" entity to his subordinates when he was still in power, what more now when he's already retired?

* * *

Generals like Salvador Mison, Rodolfo Canieso, Guillermo Ruiz and Diomedio Villanueva were feared and respected at the same time by subordinates because they were combat officers from the time they started their military careers as second lieutenants.

Not Abadia. He was counting other people's money as a military finance officer for a long time before he was given a command. In short, he didn't have much combat experience.

That's why when Abadia said that Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, with whom he has a tiff over the reported coup plot, was not a combat officer, everybody but himself and his wife laughed.

* * *

"*Pareho lang sila,* Mon, *na walang* combat experience as young lieutenants (Both of them did not have combat experience)," said a retired military general who spent most of his time in Mindanao fighting Moro rebels.

But the difference between Abadia and Reyes, who was also AFP chief of staff, is that one is an intellectual while the other pretends to be one. That's not my assessment. That's the assessment of the retired general.

Reyes took up masteral studies at Harvard and other US universities when he was "borrowed" from the military to work for Philippine embassies abroad.

"Compare Reyes' command of the English language and his erudition with that of Abadia and you will have an idea of what I mean," said the general.

* * *

I tend to agree with that general about his assessment of Abadia.

A person who believes everything he reads in his phone text messages is not very bright. He is also gullible.

Abadia said he received text messages supposedly from junior officers that hinted for him to lead and guide the destabilization plot.

* * *

Si Boy *naman. Pati ba naman mga kalokohan sa* text messages *pinaniniwalaan mo?*

Boy Abadia probably also believed those text messages circulated a couple of years ago that the Pope had died. Ninety percent of the "information" you receive from text messages is the work of people who have idle minds. As they say in Tagalog, "*mga taong walang magawa.*"

Obviously, *wala ring magawa si* Boy Abadia. As a saying goes, an idle mind is the Devil's workshop.

* * *

"Is this karma?" asked Akbayan Party List Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales in reaction to a report that former first lady Imelda Marcos and four of her most loyal supporters had a falling out.

There's a moral to the story that Rita Gaddi, Cherry Cobarrubias, Anthony Violago and Nonoy Escolin had turned on her.

Yes, Etta, there is karma and what Imelda Marcos is experiencing now is karma.

* * *

In the Visayas, where Imelda comes from, it's called *gaba.*

Imelda is now reaping what she sowed years ago. Her extravagant lifestyle when the country was mired in poverty during her husband's rule has caught up with her.

Her claim that she couldn't even pay her electric bills might be true. If she's not telling the truth, she's still suffering from karma. In her heyday, Imelda never admitted she was ever poor in her life. Even during the Japanese Occupation, when everybody was scrounging around for food and money, Imelda said that her family lived in luxury.

* * *

Karma is the universal law of retribution and reward. You reap what you sow.

No karmic debt ever goes unpaid. Nobody is exempted from karma.

I hope Sen. Panfilo Lacson reads this.

* * *

Twenty years ago, the Marcoses, especially Imelda, never thought they would suffer hardship and prosecution.

The Marcoses thought they would rule the country for a century. Imelda would take over from her husband upon his death, and then their offspring would take over from Imelda, and so forth.

The citizenry at that time was also resigned to a Marcos dynastic rule.

But karma intervened. And the rest is history.

Lav Diaz's 5-hour epic, actors win . . .

From page A25

Lily Monteverde finally agreed to distribute it.

Of "Batang West Side," Diaz said, "They say it's too long. People can't take it. It's too heavy. People can't handle it. Distributors won't pick it up, theaters won't screen it. Wrong. There were theaters that accepted the film and people who watched it.

"I believe the masses have the ability to transcend the standards they normally use in apprehending the arts. Allow works of proportion and beauty to exist, and we will develop an audience with lofty enough and profound enough philosophies to properly appreciate the art of cinema."

In an earlier interview with the INQUIRER, Diaz said he never intended to make "Batang West Side" five hours long. The original script, titled "West Side Avenue, JC," which won for him a Palanca award in 1997, was 135 pages long and had 126 scenes. A revised copy that he shot reached a hundred pages and 208 scenes.

"I simply followed the cutting and joining together of various scenes according to the script I shot," he said.

"I thought the film would run three hours, but during editing I saw that it would run longer and I didn't try to alter this condition. I allowed it to flow naturally. I allowed it to become organic, to acquire a life of its own.

No compromise

"That's my philosophy when cutting, when finishing a film. I don't bend to the conventions of editing or of length. I refused to follow the dictates of the industry. No manipulation has been done to force me to conform to tradition, to what has been done before.

"I've studied the length many times in order to change it, but the five-hour version remains solid according to the dictates of aesthetics, story flow and wholeness of vision. I refuse to compromise the integrity of the work to please limiting, emasculating tradition."

"Batang West Side" was also shown in Hong Kong, Pattaya (Thailand) and Karlovy Vary in the Czech Republic.

Last year, veteran comedian Dolphy and his sons Eric and Jeffrey Quizon bagged the top acting plums also at the Brussels International Film Festival for their performances in Gil Portes' "Markova: Comfort Gay."

It was the first time in the history of the festival that the best actor and best actress awards were awarded to three actors.

"Markova: Comfort Gay" is based on the life of Walter Dempster Jr. (a.k.a. Walterina Markova), whom Japanese soldiers had turned into a sex slave during World War II.

Dolphy himself produced "Markova" under his RVQ Productions.

Albert Martinez and Vilma Santos have also won in the Brussels festival. Martinez was best actor for Tikoy Aguiluz's "Rizal sa Dapitan," and Santos was best actress for Chito Roño's "Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa."

Kiddie ban in Navotas

THE PARENTS of children caught playing in the main and busy streets of Navotas will be fined or jailed for negligence.

The Navotas municipal council passed an ordinance prohibiting children below 9 from playing in the town's main streets.

"The streets are not a playground," Mayor Toby Tiangco said in a statement. "Yet there are irresponsible parents who let their kids stray in busy streets where they might be hit by vehicles."

The ordinance imposes a fine of P300, a one-day detention in jail or eight hours of community service. The ordinance covers M. Naval, Gov. Pascual, F. Pascual, L. Tangos, Estrella, Cadorniga, C-4 Road, C-3 Road, Road 10, H. Lopez and Lapu-Lapu Avenue.

Ramos, 50

ROLANDO "Bobot" Ramos, son of Bartolome and Asuncion Ramos (both deceased) of Project 8, Quezon City, died last Nov. 8.

He left wife Corazon, children Christopher, Rosalyn, Rosemarie, Rachel Anne and Renz Carlo.

His remains are at the Arlington Memorial Homes in Quezon City. Burial is on Nov. 17 at 3 p.m. at the Holy Cross Memorial Park.

Christmas or not, BF's drive goes on

From page A25

front of the MMDA office in Makati yesterday.

"(Fernando) should face the public," Reyes told reporters. "Let's not avoid responsibility. I will hound him even up to his house."

The running priest said the Church is having a hard time convincing sidewalk vendors not to turn to violence, and the MMDA must take measures to prevent the vendors from taking up arms.

Reyes also denounced Fernando's strong-arm tactics against the vendors.

"Bayani is helping GMA impose Martial Law," he said.

MMVA members also reiterated their demand for alternative means of livelihood for them.

"We support the law and we also want clean sidewalks in the metropolis," MMVA president Pedring Fadrigon said in a statement. "In fact, we are willing to give up the sidewalks because of the hazards to vendors. But our simple question is, where do we go and how are we going to support our living?"

He added that the area allotted to them by the local government costs a fortune.

But Fernando said the vendors' alternative is for them to sell in the markets, unless they want their capital to be used up when the MMDA destroys their goods during clearing operations, which would intensify during the Christmas shopping rush.

Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna said in a recent interview that the MMDA is gearing up for intensified operations during the holidays.

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2 THE TRANSPORTER	2 THE TRANSPORTER	2 PIÑERO (Exclusive) 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30	SWEET HOME ALABAMA 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	2 CHANGING LANES
3 KAILANGAN KITA	3 CHANGING LANES 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	REGINE VELASQUEZ - SONGBIRD SONGS NOV. 21-22-23, 29-30 / DEC. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28	3 TRAPPED 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	3 KAILANGAN KITA
4 KAILANGAN KITA	4 GHOST SHIP		4 CHANGING LANES 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30	4 TRAPPED
	5 RED DRAGON		KAILANGAN KITA 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20	THE TRANSPORTER
	6 KAILANGAN KITA			
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4	TRAPPED
5	TRANSPORTER
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7	GHOSTSHIP
8	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
9	DALAGINDING

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2	KAILANGAN KITA
3	TWO TIMER
4	TRANSPORTER
5	TRAPPED

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3	TRAPPED
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2	TWO TIMER
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5	DALAGINDING

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1	KAILANGAN KITA=1:35/3:45/5:55/8:05
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3	GHOSTSHIP=12:05/2:15/4:25/6:35/8:40
4	TRAPPED12:05/2:15/6:35/8:40
5	TRANSPORTER=2:00/4:10/6:20/8:30
6	SWEET HOME ALABAMA= 12:20/2:20/4:20/6:20/8:20
7	CHANGING LANES=12:05/2:15/4:25/6:35/8:45

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
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2	KAILANGAN KITA
3	TRANSPORTER
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2	GHOSTSHIP
3	TRANSPORTER
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2	SINGSING NI LOLA
3	KAILANGAN KITA
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3	DALAGINDING
4	GHOST SHIP

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2	KAILANGAN KITA
3	TWO TIMER
4	GHOSTSHIP
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2	KAILANGAN KITA
3	TRANSPORTER

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1	TWO TIMER
2	KAILANGAN KITA
3	TRANSPORTER

Mega Center Mall
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2	TWO TIMER
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	RED DRAGON

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2	KAILANGAN KITA
3	SINGSING NI LOLA

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8	TRAPPED

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5	KAILANGAN KITA
6	STA. CLAUSE 2
7	CHANGING LANES
8	TRAPPED
9	GHOST SHIP
10	SWEET HOME ALABAMA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
	BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
3	SINGSING NI LOLA
4	TRANSPORTER
5	CHANGING LANES
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7	GHOST SHIP
8	TRAPPED
9	KAILANGAN KITA
10	TWO TIMER
	BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
12	DALAGINDING

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5239240

1	CHANGING LANES
2	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
3	TRAPPED
4	KAILANGAN KITA
	BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
6	TRANSPORTER
7	DALAGINDING
8	STA. CLAUSE 2
9	KAILANGAN KITA
10	KAILANGAN KITA
11	GHOST SHIP
12	TWO TIMER

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1	RED DRAGON
2	CHANGING LANES
3	TRANSPORTER
4	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5	TRAPPED
	BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
7	TWO TIMER
8	DALAGINDING
9	KAILANGAN KITA
10	GHOST SHIP
11	KAILANGAN KITA
12	STA. CLAUSE 2

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1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	GHOST SHIP
3	TWO TIMER
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6	TRAPPED
7	TRANSPORTER
8	CHANGING LANES

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2	TRAPPED
3	TRANSPORTER
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	CHANGING LANES
6	DALAGINDING
7	KAILANGAN KITA
8	GHOST SHIP
9	TWO TIMER
10	SINGSING NI LOLA

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2313876

	BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
2	CHANGING LANES
3	STA. CLAUSE 2
4	BIRTHDAY GIRL
5	KAILANGAN KITA
6	TWO TIMER
7	GHOST SHIP
8	KAILANGAN KITA

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	BEDTIME STORIES
2	CLOSED
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	PLUTO NASH
5	RED DRAGON
6	MR. DEEDS
7	CLOSED
8	TWO TIMER

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	GHOST SHIP
2	PLUTO NASH
3	STA. CLAUSE 2
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	TWO TIMER
6	KAILANGAN KITA

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294075

1	TWO TIMER
2	TRANSPORTER
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	CHANGING LANES

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	TRANSPORTER
2	SINGSING NI LOLA
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	TWO TIMER

SM CITY DAVAO
2976098

	BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
2	TWO TIMER
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	MR. DEEDS
5	KAILANGAN KITA
6	POSSESSION

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1
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3
4

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1	TRAPPED 11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/ 10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END
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4	SWET HOME ALABAMA
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6	CHANGING LANES
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3	TRAPPED
4	THE TRANSPORTER
5	GHOST SHIP
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7	CHANGING LANES

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1	THE SANTA CLAUSE 2
2	CHANGING LANES
3	GHOST SHIP
4	TWO TIMER
5	TRAPPED
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7	TRANSPORTER
8	DALAGINDING

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	THE TRANSPORTER
2	GHOST SHIP
3	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
4	DALAGINDING
5	CHANGING LANES
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7	TWO TIMER
8	TRAPPED

Imus
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2	GHOST SHIP
3	TWO TIMER
4	TRAPPED
5	KAILANGAN KITA
6	SANTA CLAUSE 2

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TRANSPORTER P13 11:50,1:50,3:50, 5:50,7:55,10:00	TRAPPED R18 12:50,3:05,5:20, 7:35,9:50	SWEET HOME ALABAMA P13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10

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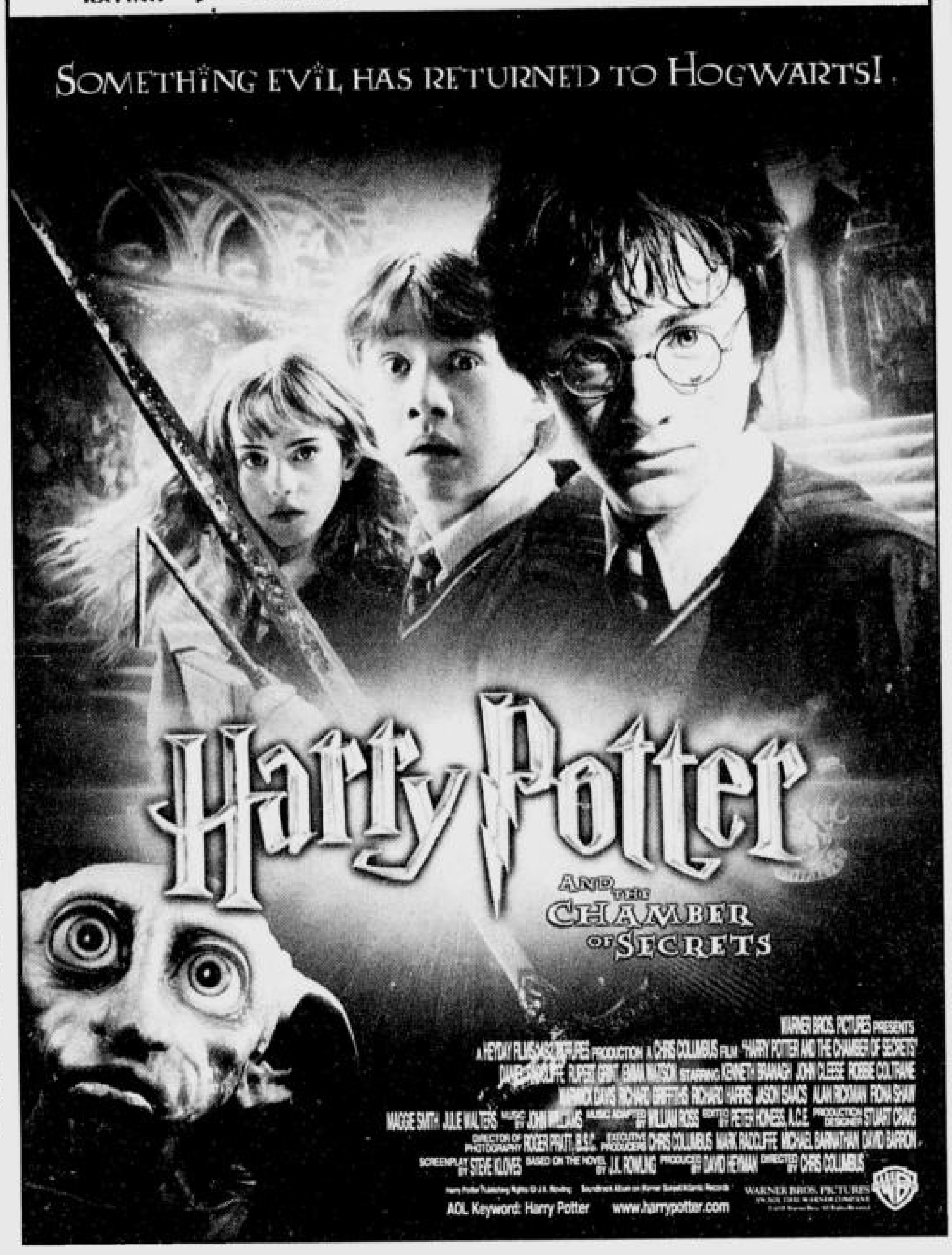
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	KAILANGAN KITA=1 35-3 45-5 55-8 05
Ali 2	TWO TIMER=12:10/2:20/4:30/6:40/8 50
Ali 3	GHOST SHIP=12:05/2:15/4:25/6.35/8 40
Ali 4	TRAPPED=12:05/2:15/4 25/6.35/8 40
Ali 5	TRANSPORTER=2 00/4.10/6 20/8 30
Ali 6	SWEET HOME ALABAMA=12 20/2 20/4 20/6:20/8 20
Ali 7	CHANGING LANES= 12 05/2 15/4 25/6 35/8 40

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Farmers 1	DALAGINDING=1 40-3 40-5 40-7 40
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EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	GAMITAN / VOODOO
ODEON	TRANSPORTER
ODEON-2	BUKAS BABAHA ANG DUGO / SENSUAL
ROBEN	DALAGINDING
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	AUSTIN POWER / DERAILED
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	DALAGINDING
REMAR	DALAGINDING
REMAR-2	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KAILANGAN KITA
B	TWO TIMER
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
CINEMA-2	SANTA CLAUSE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
CINEMA-2	BEDTIME STORIES
CINEMA-3	HUWAG MONG TAKASAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SINGSING NI LOLA
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MUNTING TINIG
CINEMA-6	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-7	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
CINEMA-8	RED DRAGON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	GHOST SHIP
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	HALLOWEEN RESSURECTION
CINEMA-12	SANTA CLAUSE 2
CINEMA-14	SINGSING NI LOLA
CINEMA-15	9 MORNINGS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	MR DEEDS
CINEMA 2	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA 3	BESTMAN
CINEMA 4	K-19
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
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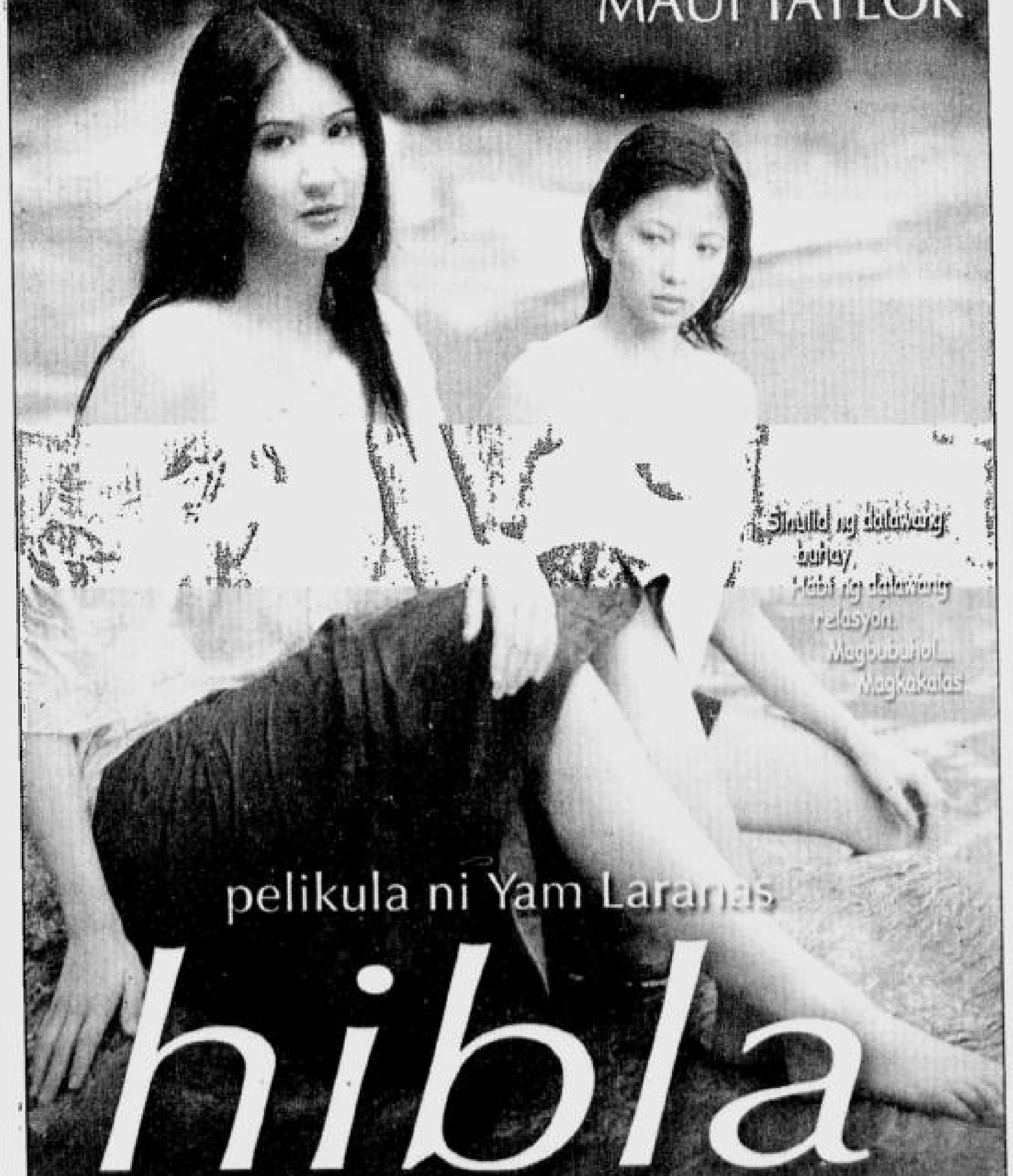

DIRECTED BY YAM LARANAS www.hibla.net VIVA

OPENS TOMORROW!

Why stars shoplift

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOLLYWOOD star **Winona Ryder** has been acting in films for so many years that it comes as a shock to learn that she's only 31 years old. The revelation was made recently, when the gamin actress was brought to court on a shoplifting charge. Court cases have a way of cutting through the show biz facade of glamour and "image," baring the confused and genuinely frightened individual underneath.

In Winona's case, the shoplifting charge was particularly humiliating because it involved, not the theft of gems worth millions of dollars, but only $5,000 worth of assorted merchandise.

That may not be small potatoes to us, especially when we multiply it by P52 to the dollar, but to a star of Winona's level of earning power, it's really loose change.

So, why did the popular and wealthy actress demean herself and risk ruining her career in such a cheap and cheapening way? This is where the psychologists and psychiatrists guest on celebrity talk shows to intone: She couldn't really help herself. Shoplifting is as much an addiction as alcoholism. A celebrity's wealth doesn't insulate him or her against the temptation to shoplift. It isn't really about acquiring something for free, it's more about the thrill, the danger of being caught.

Yes, being apprehended is scary, embarrasing, mortifying-but the prospect of flouting society's rules and getting away with it is powerfully attractive, so some celebrities take the risk, and like Winona, end up living their worst nightmare.

But even being found out can be perversely appealing, if the shoplifter is subconsciously bent on punishing and demeaning himself.

But the bottom line is, getting caught is shameful. And, if the culprit is a public figure, the shame is compounded many times over.

So famous people who dare the fates to do their worst by shoplifting need help, like everybody else who shares their predicament.

Therefore, show biz fans are cautioned against playing the usual game of "build them up so we can shoot them down" that characterizes the star-fan-and-media relationship all too often these days. It's tempting to gloat over the fact that some stars have feet mired in muck, but it doesn't help the star-addict, and it also demeans us because it encourages our worst impulses to come to the fore. It's time to help, not heckle.

Movies on TV

ON THE HBO Channel, Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 6 a.m., "Missing." 4:30 a.m., "Hefner: Unauthorized."

Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 6 a.m., "Hanover Street." 10:30 a.m., "Wit."

Thursday, Nov. 14 at 11 p.m., "Joan of Arc." Friday, Nov. 15 at 8:30 a.m., "The World According to Garp." 1:05 a.m., "Lost in Yonkers."

Saturday, Nov. 16 at 7:45 a.m., "Election." Sunday, Nov. 17 at 1p.m., "Band of Brothers-Carentan/ Replacements." 11:45 p.m., "Heaven and Earth."

On Cinemax: Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 5:45 p.m., "Biloxi Blues." Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 7:15 p.m., "Bowfinger." Thursday, Nov. 14 at 1:30 p.m., "Gossip." 4:30 p.m., "The Out-of-Towners."

Friday, Nov. 15 at 9 p.m., "Young Guns." 12:15 a.m., "Millennium Man." 4:45 a.m., "Steal This Movie." Saturday, Nov. 16 at 3:30 p.m., "Suspect."

Sunday, Nov. 17 at 6 a.m., "Macarthur." 12 noon, "Bowfinger."

'Static'

THE PHILIPPINE tour of Unlimited Theatre's production of "Static" runs from Nov. 16 to 25. The tour is presented by the British Council and the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

"Static" is a two-character play that got rave reviews in last year's Edinburgh International Festival. It was written by **Chris Thorpe** in response to the war in Kosovo in 1999. It makes viewers think long and hard about the role in society of newscasts and broadcast practitioners. "Static" stars **Jon Spooner** and **Clare Duffy**. It will be performed at the CCP's Tanghalang Batute at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 16, and at 2:3o p.m. and 5 p.m. on Nov. 17. A forum on media responsibility and the performing arts will follow each performance.

Other performance: Nov. 19 at the Baguio Colleges Foundation. Nov. 22 in Bacolod, and Nov. 23 at St. Theresa's Academy-Cebu.

Workshops on "Media Responsibility and Alternative Theatre" will also be conducted by the actors.

For God, and for entertainment

DE LEON. A breath of fresh air, as always.

By Marinel R. Cruz

CHRISTOPHER de Leon is pleased that, 27 years after the late film master Lino Brocka introduced him in the now-classic "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang," he is still doing what he thinks he does best, entertaining people.

"I'm first and foremost an entertainer," Christopher says in an interview while promoting Listerine Mouthwash, which he endorses in a cute television and print ad. "I'm happy that, after more than two decades in the business, I still get to do movies and TV, lounge acts and sing."

Aside from being in the lead of "Ang Iibigin Ko'y Ikaw," the daily soap opera on GMA 7, he is also in Chito Roño's newest movie, "Dekada '70," and is touring the country as speaker for the Oasis of Love Community.

"I also get to host a game show . . . unfortunately," adds the youthful-looking actor who can very well endorse a product for youths.

Passing mark

Is he not proud to be the host of IBC 13's "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" (WW2BAM)?

"Well, it's just that I don't think I'm that good at hosting," he says. "I give myself a passing mark. But I'm not like Edu (Manzano) or Paolo (Bediones), who I think are really good hosts. I just wanted to try (hosting).

"I learn a lot from hosting the show. I'm now more enthusiastic about entertaining people. Hosting forces me to deal with people I don't know."

He says "WW2BAM" did very well for a year and a half until its ratings dropped when the emergence of game shows on other channels divided audience attention.

"Ours used to be the only game show that was high-tech, entertaining and at the same time grammatical," he says.

Fire razed the WW2BAM studio last May, and authorities blamed faulty wiring. It took a few months before WW2BAM could resume taping new episodes.

Its host says it was bad enough that the ratings dropped because of the fire. Now that viewers are watching replays, WW2BAM is losing even more momentum.

Christopher's contract with WW2BAM is due to expire this month. He says he is still considering whether to renew the contract or not.

"The problem about the millionaire show is that it's seasonal," he says. "Viewers see replays nowadays because the show is on a seasonal break. Filipinos are not used to watching shows that have seasonal breaks and that air replays."

Not complaining

Meanwhile, Christopher is busy taping twice a week for "Ang Iibigin Ko'y Ikaw." Like in hosting a game show, he says he considers acting for television a challenge.

"I memorize a voluminous script everyday," he says. "But I don't complain. My primary concern is to keep viewers interested in the character I portray."

Three months after the show was launched, his character, Limuel Verder, has evolved from villainous to pitiful.

"(Limuel) used to be the headache of the rest of the characters," he says. "Now, everybody is getting back at him. *Kawawa na siya.* He is losing everything already."

TV acting is a totally different experience for him, Christopher says. The script, for instance, is "a work in progress," very much unlike a movie script that is more detailed and always has a conclusion.

"In soap operas, you know what's going to happen to you only one week before the actual shoot," he explains. "You have to push yourself a little more when acting for TV. In movies, you come out more natural if you act less. But on TV, acting is always a notch higher."

The actor who has won many acting awards is very excited about "Dekada '70," his next movie under director Chito Roño. The two first teamed up in the Eugenio Lopez-Sergio Osmeña story "Eskapo," which also starred Richard Gomez.

"('Dekada '70') is going to be one of the modern-day classics," its lead actor says. "You will be able to see, smell and feel the '70s. The script (by Lualhati Bautista) was so masterfully done."

The film, starring Vilma Santos and young actors Piolo Pascual, Marvin Agustin, Danilo Barrios and Carlos Agassi, is an official entry in the Metro Manila Film Festival in December.

Nora and Vilma

"Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang" gave him his first acting trophy from Famas as best actor in 1974.

Some of his first movies were made with Nora, his first wife, and with Vilma. Nora was his leading lady in Gerry de Leon's "Banaue" of 1975, Mario O'Hara's "Tatlong Taong Walang Diyos" of 1976, and "Ikaw Ay Akin" of 1978.

Santos worked with him in "Masarap, Masakit ang Umibig," 1977; "Nakawin Natin Ang Bawat Sandali," 1978; Ishmael Bernal's "Relasyon," 1982; and Bernal's "Broken Marriage," 1983.

Christopher considers Eddie Romero's "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?" and Eddie Garcia's "Ipagpatawad Mo" as highlights of his acting career.

Spiritual

Christopher travels around the country as speaker for the Oasis of Love Community, of which he and actress-wife Sandy Andolong are active members.

"I use my singing for the greater glory of God," he says.

He says he has changed a lot since he became involved with the community.

"Before, I was really wild. I just did whatever pleased me, with no consideration for others. But everything felt right after I surrendered myself to the Lord.

"So far, I'm more comfortable with myself, my work and my family life. I am trying very hard to be spiritual."

CBS sues ABC over 'Survivor' rip-off

NEW YORK— May the best legal defense team win. US network CBS is suing rival ABC to prevent it from airing an alleged rip-off of its hugely profitable "Survivor" reality series.

In a copyright infringement suit filed Wednesday in Manhattan Federal Court, CBS alleged that "I'm a Celebrity . . . Get Me Out of Here!" from ABC and Granada Entertainment USA was a direct knock-off of the "Survivor" format.

"Celebrity" premiered in Britain in August 2002, and the ABC suit seeks to prevent its development in the United States.

ABC executives declined to comment, saying they have not reviewed the lawsuit.

Paul Nichols, a spokesperson for the London-based Granada Entertainment in California, called the suit "regrettable." "Their claim that our format infringes their rights in 'Survivor' is entirely unfounded, and we will strongly defend any proceedings that may be issued," Nichols said.

ABC had announced in September that it intended to bring the "Celebrity" show across the Atlantic.

"The series will follow the (British) version of dropping eight celebrities in one of the world's most inhospitable climates with just basic rations of rice and water," ABC said.

"They are at the mercy of television viewers, who single out a celebrity a night to undertake a physical challenge in order to win enough food for the rest of the group." "Survivor," which premiered in 2000, places non-actor participants in rugged outdoor locales, such as jungles or desert islands, where they are deprived of basic necessities and forced to work as a team.

Each episode ends with one participant being voted out and eliminated from the show by the others. The last survivor wins a large cash prize. It is based on a popular Swedish TV show.

Last year, CBS sued Fox television to halt broadcasts of a reality show called "Boot Camp." That case quietly settled when "Boot Camp" failed in the ratings. *AFP*

Saturdays with Willy Cruz

COMPOSER and musical director Willy Cruz returns for more performances at the Podium on Nov. 15, 6 p.m., as well as on Nov. 16 and 23 and Dec. 14, 22 and 27. He will perform "Dadalhin Kita," and "Can We Just Stop and Talk a While" from his hit album "Got to Believe in Magic," his own compositions "Kahit Na" and "Sana'y Maghintay ang Walang Hanggan" and Christmas classics like "Adeste Fidelis" and "Joy to the World" which were in his "Give Love on Christmas Day" album from Viva Records.

WILLY CRUZ

PROVINCIAL BOARD MEMBERS LEAGUE
OF THE PHILIPPINES
3rd LUZON AREA CONFERENCE
Theme: A STRONGER PBMLP TOWARDS A STRONG REPUBLIC

BONG'S BRIGADE
The Videogram Regulatory Board, led by Chair Bong Revilla (center), and the Provincial Board Members League of the Philippines, led by national president Strike Revilla (second from left), signed a memorandum of agreement against video piracy during the PBML's 3rd Luzon area conference in Laoag, Ilocos Norte last Oct. 29. The agreement authorizes PBML members to wage drives against illegal videos. PBMLP vice chairman Dominic Tolentino is second from right.

'We wear what we endorse'

From page A30

Philippine brands they endorse, considering how brand-conscious they are? I don't mean to demean our local brands. I personally prefer wearing our very own creations over imported designer clothes. I want to be dressed, not stressed, for success. Pricey imported brands are quite a stress on my budget.

Chynna and Dyan are thrilled that Blowing Bubbles is giving them a free hand in designing their clothes.

"We are not limited to wearing the available styles," says Chynna. "We will come up with designs to suit our personality. That's what makes it unique compared to other brands."

Why Blowing Bubbles? "Because it brings to mind the carefree and fun spirit of the Gen X."

Guess list

GUESS who is this dramatic actress who tried so hard to impress a stage actor by showing off all her jewelry during a lull in their taping. She pulled out every necklace, bracelet, ring, etc. from her jewelry case and told him where she bought each piece. She even revealed how much they cost.

The thespian was not impressed by the ostentatious display of the actress, who hollered at the production staff, "You better increase his talent fee because he seems to be richer than me!"

She may have said that in jest. Be that as it may, it just goes to show that for noveau riche stars, all their millions can never buy breeding and class. It's either you're born with it or not.

***

Guess who is this other dramatic star who was able to sneak out drugs in her hand-carried luggage.

Were some of the members of the airport staff so star-struck that they just went through the motions of checking her bag, or has a junkie like her mastered how to elude even the most hi-tech detectors?

For feedback, e-mail friends _at_dsquare@yahoo.com

BLOWING BUBBLES endorsers Chynna Ortaleza and Dyan Delfin

OPENS TOMORROW!
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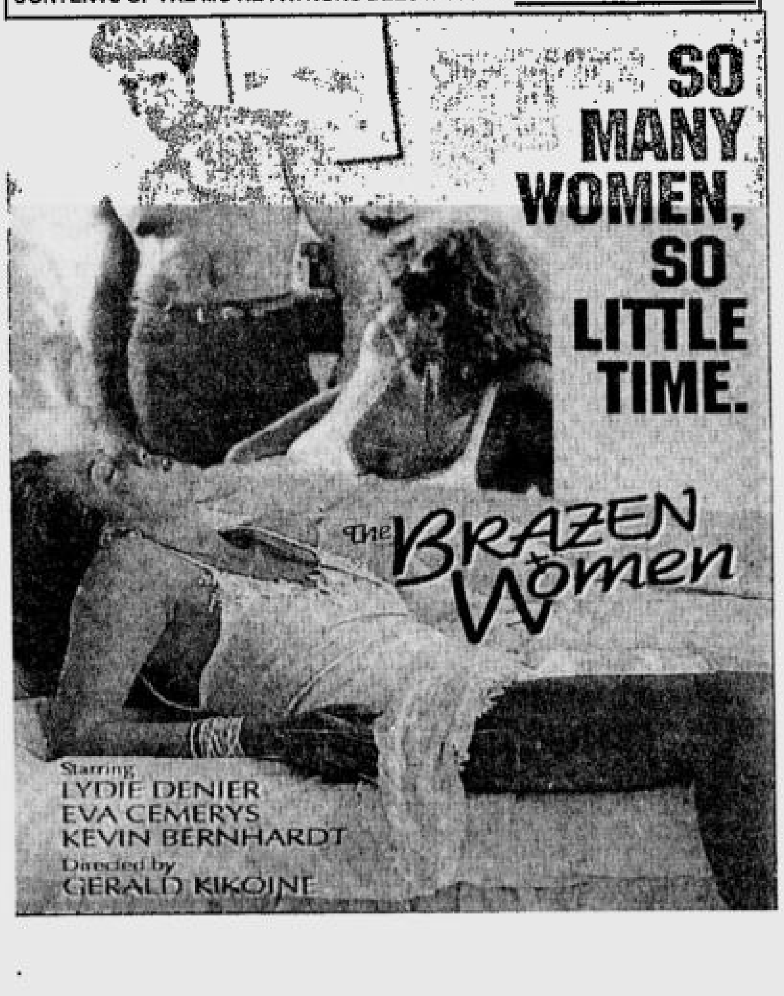

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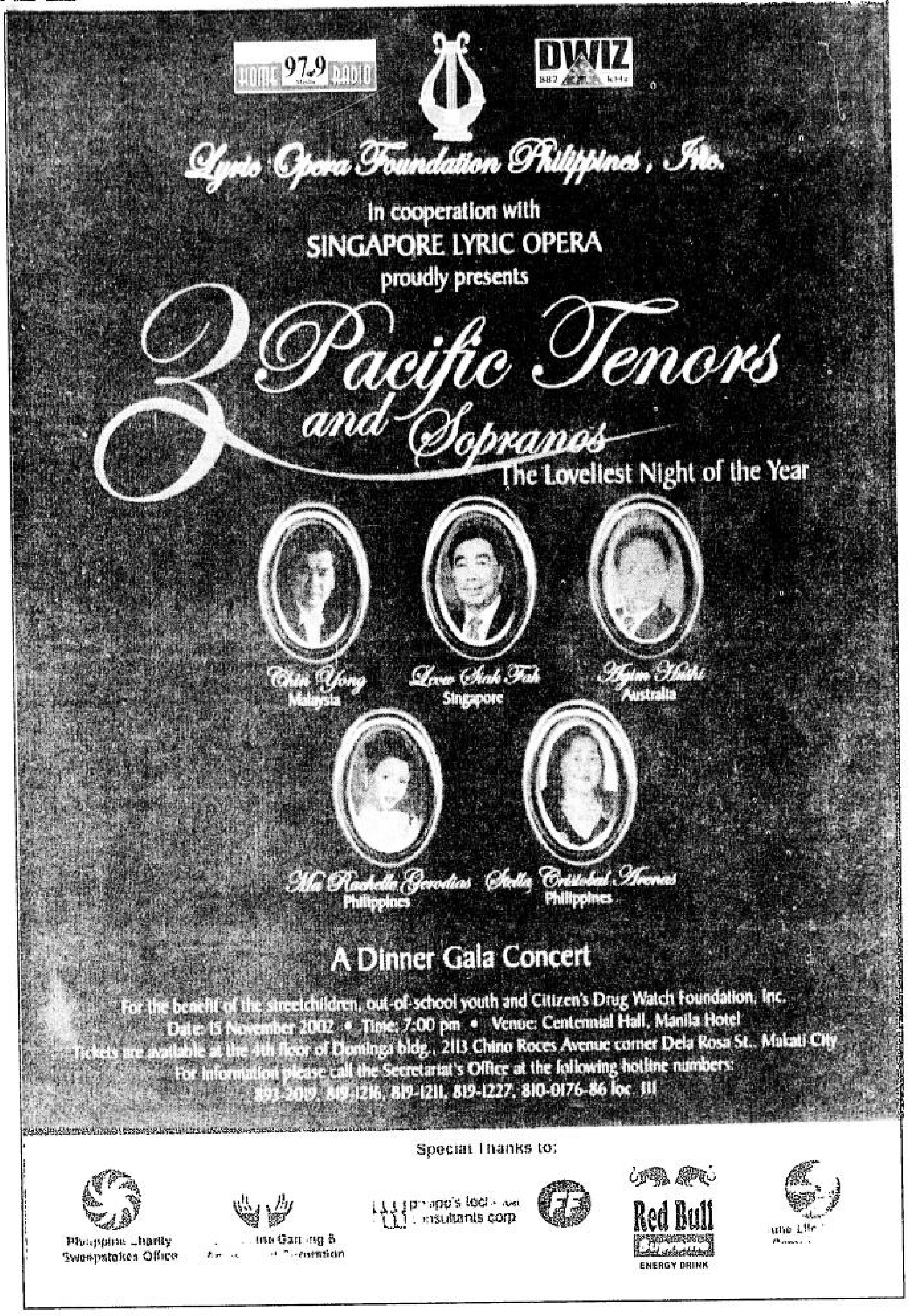
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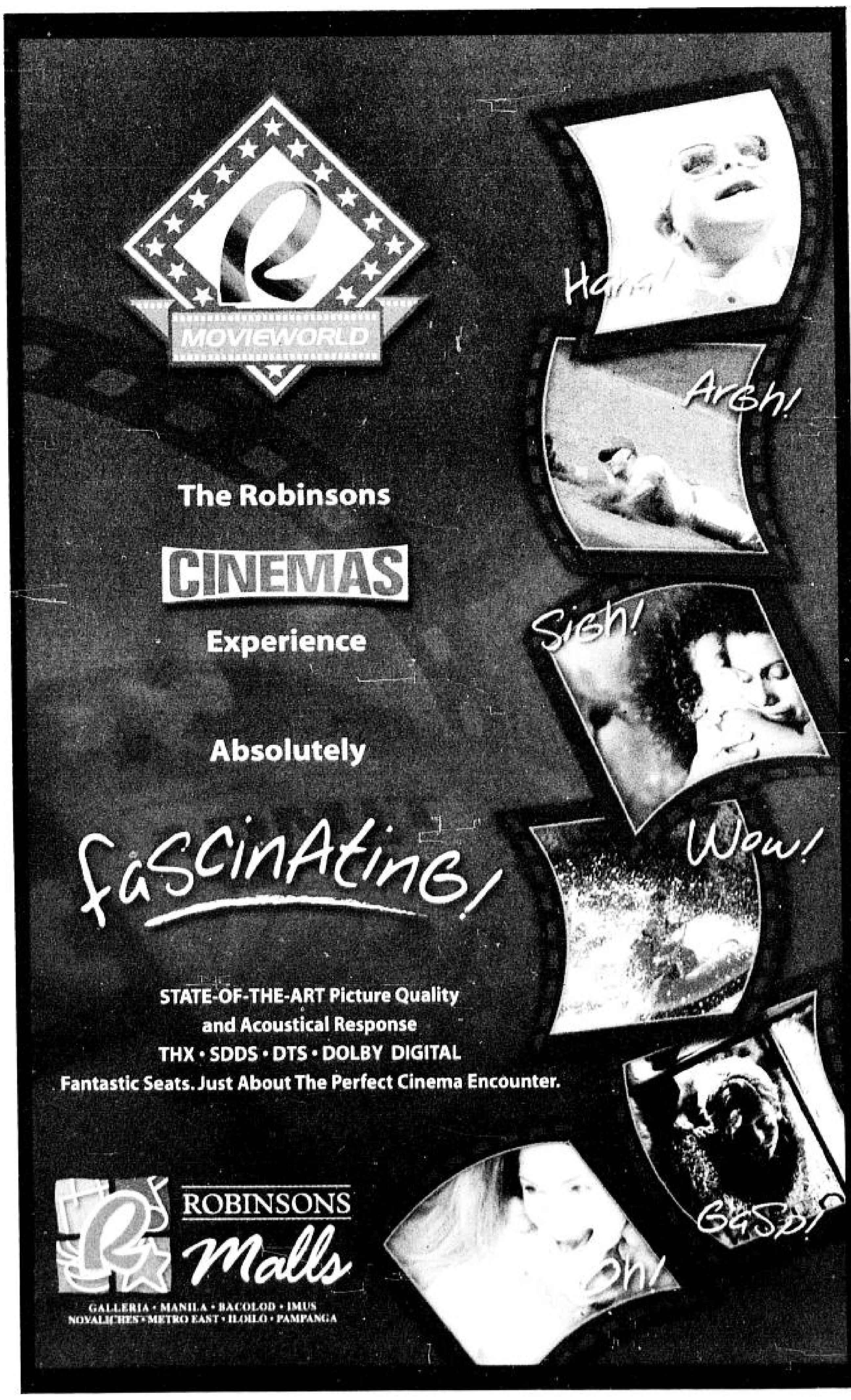
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

RIDING HIGH. Mark Dacascos is a Native American, a role he was born to play.

'BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF'

Monsters and deception, death and Dacascos

By Oliver Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

BEFORE the French entertainment channel MCM inexplicably vanished from many cable providers last year, the intriguing trailer for "Brotherhood of the Wolf" was shown almost every hour.

It was just begging to be seen, looking like a big-budgeted Merchant Ivory monster movie. It's currently being screened in a few exclusive Metro Manila theaters. Watch it while you can. It's money well-spent.

The story is loosely based on an 18th century legend of a creature called the Beast of Gevaudan, a monster that kills peasants and travellers unlucky enough to cross its path. The investigator, the king's field naturalist, Chevalier Gregoire de Fronsac (Samuel Le Bihan), and his Mohawk Iroquois sidekick Mani (Mark Dacascos) search for the Beast, encountering various scoundrels along the way.

Puzzle

Aided in the hunt by a young adventurer, Marquis D'Apcher (Jeremie Renier), and other associates, Fronsac and Mani encounter terror, death, love, and deception, and not necessarily in that order. There's a baffling puzzle that points to clues everywhere that just might lead to the unraveling of the creature's mysterious, long-term notoriety.

The story is made extra-complicated by the tangled web of adroit ideas that were put in the script. The movie goes everywhere, and doesn't disappoint with its temerity. The painstaking combination of genres is smoothly executed and displays director Cristophe Gans' penchant for stylish agoraphobia (he worked on the oversimplified but forgivable big screen adaptation of "Crying Freeman").

"Brotherhood of the Wolf" is extremely fortifying in its carefully premeditated carnage. This eye-popping, subtitled gem runs for a justified, almost two-and-a-half-hours.

There's swooping, painterly cinematography, made even more beguiling by the rich production design. The world looks so alien yet are also idealized interpretations of illustrated French history books, swallowing up the audience in its almost forbidden allure.

Unspeakables

Once drawn in, it's hard to deny that there's an encroaching fear in the air, that despite the magnificence of the land's tricky forests and glades, there's a mythic blight that dares undermine its vaunted protectors.

The twanging minstrel's music and breezy swirl of colors soothingly keep unspeakables at bay, the outlandishness proudly ornamenting the movie's unique look.

Unpredictability is also nurtured and unleashed with equivalent style and substance. Dacascos plays a Native American warrior with Hong Kong-esque [illegible] rs moves and shamanic tendencies, [illegible] kes it even better is that he com. [illegible] as born to play this role.

He, like Adam Beach in "Windta. [illegible] do Native American, Latino, or Asia [illegible] based on the range of his looks. Dacascos [illegible] pressively wears Mani as a faceted characte[illegible] with wit, spirituality and sensuality.

Monica Bellucci as Sylvia, the Pope's courtesan spy, shimmers in her roughly 10 minutes of total screen time, looking absolutely royal yet strangely menacing.

Also starring is Vincent Cassel (recently in "Birthday Girl"), as the well-travelled and taunting Jean-Francois de Morangias.

Eerie

The fantastic costumes look like they were influenced by Eiko Ishioka and Alexander McQueen, accentuating the already welcome excessiveness of the movie's visuals. The weaponry designs are some of the more formidable-looking ones that exist functionally outside fantasy video games and comic books. No expense has been spared in making the audience feel overcrowded in some parts and abandoned in the open in others.

If you're after well-rewarded moodiness and eerie atmosphere, this movie deserves your attention.

I had the pleasure of meeting director Elwood Perez after watching this film, and he had really nice things to say about it as well. We agreed that its evocative look and crafty direction fill the movie with pleasures. I wanted to go back for a second viewing, but time didn't permit it.

Only a few movies this year can match its visual and storytelling lushness. It's a surreal epic/horror/adventure/etc. movie experience, and it's a shame that it's not released more widely.

"Brotherhood of the Wolf" is best seen on the big screen than on video, which will probably be released about three months from now. Like I said, it's money well-spent, so check it out. It's still begging to be seen.

'We wear what we endorse'

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

CLOTHING stores seem to be in a mad scramble to get celebrity endorsers to lure the buying public. Some have even hired Hollywood stars to be their image models.

The latest local brand to join the fray is Blowing Bubbles, which signed up fresh young stars **Chynna Ortaleza** ("Click" and "Habang Kapiling Ka") and **Dyan Delfin** ("Click").

Chynna exudes girlish innocence while Dyan is the funky playful type. No wonder **Richard Gutierrez** seems to be smitten with Chynna.

"I don't know anything about that," says Chynna. "We're still getting to know each other."

Bong Revilla's son **Bryan** was head over heels in love with Dyan. "We split up but we have remained friends," she says. "We both decided to concentrate on our careers."

The two charmers are like sisters and call themselves "Ebony and Ivory." Chynna is mestiza and Dyan is dusky.

"Every girl fantasizes to become a supermodel," says Chynna. "We all go through the play-dress-me-up phase. You know, trying on your mom or *ate's* party clothes and shoes when they're not around."

Dyan beams: "It's a dream come true to see myself on a billboard."

What can they say about Hollywood stars endorsing other Philippine brands? "There's nothing wrong with that," says Chynna. "But the problem is, the price of the clothes have to be jacked up to compensate for the thousands of dollars they pay Hollywood stars."

Says Dyan: "We may not be as famous as those foreign stars but at least we can truly say that we really wear what we endorse. It's no bread trip for us."

Come to think of it, how many times will the Hollywood stars actually put on the

'WE WEAR'/A29

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T-bill yields drop across the board

INDICATORS

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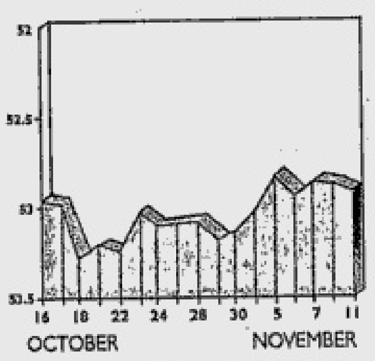


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 52.91 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 11, 2002

¥ 119.90 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 11, 2002

GOLD: $320.30-320.80

per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 11, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares down

SHARES closed lower in light trade yesterday as profit-taking persisted for the second day following last week's gains, traders said.

Renewed worries about the government's ballooning budget deficit also dampened market sentiment. In addition, regional markets were lower on Monday, contributing to the cautious stance of local investors who were waiting for third quarter corporate earnings results for signals on the market's near-term direction.

Utility firm Manila Electric Co's B shares led the losers, falling 5 percent or P1 to P19 because of delays in its request for a tariff hike.

The firm's A shares slid 3.33 percent or 50 centavos to P14.50.

"The market just pared down gains from last week. Most of the regional markets are trading lower, that could have contributed to the decline," said Oliver Plana, head of sales at Asiasec Equities Inc.

"Over the past couple of weeks, caution has been prevailing in the market because of a confluence of factors. The deficit is a contributory factor," he said.

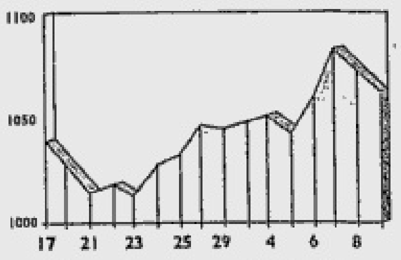
The Philippine stock index lost 10.81 points or 1.01 percent to end at 1,063.31 points.

Turnover was paper-thin at P277.8 million against P298.96 million on Friday. Losers were in a near two-to-one majority.

Traders said the market was likely to focus on corporate earnings results in the coming days for signals, but would likely maintain a downward bias.

Reuters

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

By Clarissa S. Batino

LEFT with very few other investment options, banks swamped the government's treasury bill auction yesterday pushing T-bill rates down across-the-board despite market expectations of a higher deficit of P180 billion in the first 10 months.

The benchmark 91-day rate slid by 5.4 basis points to 5.32 percent with the yields on long-term securities registering bigger decline. The rate on the 182-day bill was down by 14 basis points to 6.489 percent while that on the 364-day bill fell 14.2 basis points to 7.09 percent.

Total tenders reached P21.965 billion, much more than the regular bi-monthly government offering of P9 billion.

The government gave a full award of P3.5 billion for the 91-day treasury bills; P3 billion for the 6-month securities, and P2.5 billion for the one-year treasuries, against offers of P7.685 billion, P6.38 billion and P7.9 billion, respectively.

Deputy Treasurer Jose Tan said the drop in the rates, particularly for the six-month and one-year papers, were bigger than the Treasury's expectations.

He attributed the decline in the domestic rates to the half-a-point cut in the US interest rates last week which made local debt papers more attractive to investors.

"Banks and investors have no place to put their funds in. The stock market is also shaky," said the deputy treasurer.

With the full award, Tan said the treasury did not have to open an over-the-counter facility after the auction as it had done in the past when most offers were rejected due to unreasonable rates.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said last Friday that the government's current cash position could finance a deficit of as much as P210 billion.

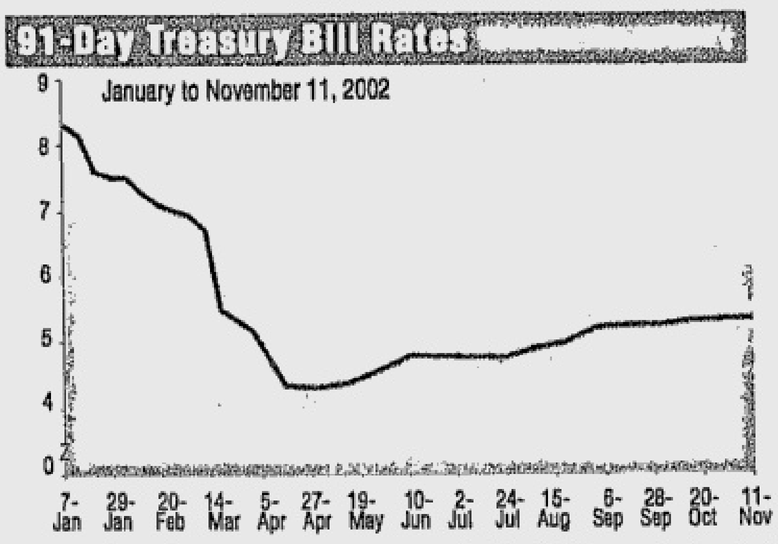
"Hopefully, the drop in the rates can be sustained especially after the US Fed cut last week. The cost of funds should really go down given the low inflation environment," said the deputy treasurer.

Traders admitted that the fixed-income market did not have many options for investments. Thus, it was forced to place its funds in government securities despite the low interest rates.

The recent US Fed cut left local banks very little leverage despite reports that the government deficit had ballooned to P180 billion in the first 10 months. The market's excess liquidity was more than enough to offset the impact of the growing fiscal slippage on interest rates.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

T-BILL/B2



Multitel's story: Desperately seeking Rosy

By Elena R. Torrijos
(Second of a series)

B-One

UNLIKE most "Ponzi" scam operators, Multinational Telecom Investors Corp.—Multitel—got so far because of the ingenious scheme it employed and the fact that it was allowed to run for so long.

By the accounts of investors, Multitel and its clone, Multitel International Holdings Inc., and their conduits got investments from the public by offering high interest rates.

The group guaranteed a monthly interest of 4 percent for a minimum investment of P10,000 or a double-your-money rate in case the investor opted to avail of an 18-month lock-in investment scheme.

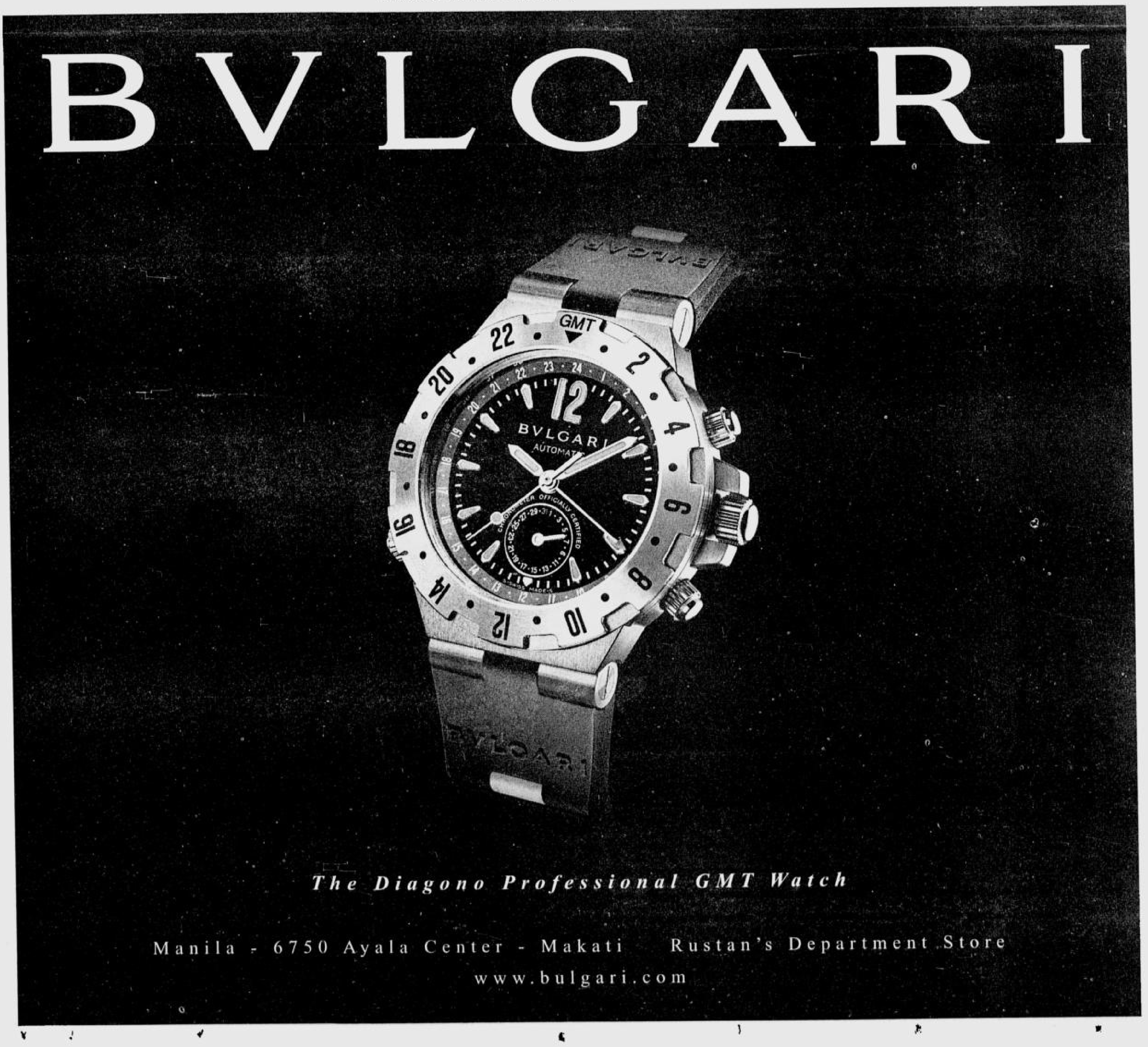
"The higher the investment, the higher the interest. Also, there is a premium for loyalty. If you're still there after six months, they will increase the interest," a physician who invested in Multitel told the INQUIRER. Often, the interest rate stood at 10 percent, but it would sometimes hit as high as 12 percent, he said.

In its cease-and-desist order in September, the Securities and Exchange Commission said MIHI made its placement offer to the public through its supposed "marketing institutions," among them the Everflow Group of Companies, One-Heart Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc. and Star Enterprise Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc.

Agents—designated as "counselors"—these conduits were accredited by MIHI chair and chief executive Rosario "Rose" Baladjay.

Payments were also made through the conduits. Everflow, One-Heart and Star would prepare a daily "summary of termination for payments" and submit this to MIHI. The latter then issued a document validating and acknowledging for payment the terminated investments contained in the report to facilitate

MULTITEL/B4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Bark to the future

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

REPORTS say that Energy Secretary Vince Perez is one of the Cabinet members whose head is undergoing thorough swabbing for strategic positioning on the chopping block.

For there will soon be, the reports say, a Cabinet revamp, and Vince "the Silent" Perez, plus Labor Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas, are so far the top favorites to go.

Frankly, I'm bothered by the reports on the labor secretary. Pat Sto. Tomas? The last time I heard something bad about her was when she had a mild indigestion.

Come on, through a Cabinet revamp, this cute administration is supposed to get rid of those who, in their own small way, deserve to be used as live bait for the terrorists.

Sure, we have too many jobless. But if you are going to blame Pat for the high unemployment rate, you might as well blame her for the execution of Dr. Jose Rizal.

Okay, she may be that old, but in order to avoid the issue of age, let's just talk about the case of Vince the Silent. It is a different case altogether.

He has been so quiet about all the anomalies in Napocor all this time, everybody is already thinking what everybody else is thinking—an apparent cover up.

* * *

ANYWAY, this cute administration of Glorietta is trying its level best to refute reports of an impending Cabinet revamp. I mean, so what's the big deal?

The reports are indeed speculative. The revamp is prospective. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think the revamp has yet to happen. What's that—barking at the future?

Thus the reports violate an old journalism rule that states, in its original Ilokano version, "every man has his price." No, it's not an old journalism rule, sorry.

Actually, it's what journalists have been hearing from a lot of people in high places about certain Cabinet members. They have their price—sometimes even in dollars.

Future events, anyway, which by definition are simply all things that have not yet occurred, may be the stuff for the Nostradamus Journalism Award.

That's why it's quite easy for this cute administration to deny the reports on a Cabinet revamp. Unless you're Madam Auring, it's always hard to prove the future.

* * *

BUT then again, no matter its ease in refuting the reports, this cute administration must also be trying to gauge public reaction to the, er, "alleged" Cabinet revamp.

Like it or not, some people do not agree with the way things are going in this country. They will love to see some Cabinet heads rolling down some bowling lanes.

It's not as if any Cabinet revamp never happened before. In this country, we have seen Cabinet revamps more often than his diehard fans have seen Elvis in the malls.

We love it because even just talks of a Cabinet revamp, the mere talk of it, can keep the Cabinet people on their toes. So what's the big deal, Joey?

The big deal is, I think, and I am not saying this because Elvis is really alive, this cute administration looks at a Cabinet revamp like it's a signed confession.

Right away it tells the public that this cute administration thinks something must be terribly wrong with the way it is running the affairs of the state. Something criminal!

* * *

AFFAIRS of the state, be warned, should not be mistaken for love affairs of Cabinet members, such as a certain Cabinet member's love affair with alleged dollar payoffs.

Actually, Rep. Willie Villarama of Bulacan, part of the two-strong bloc of Raul Roco's party in Congress, is the one making all the noises about the dollar payoffs.

BREAKTIME/ B5

COUNTRY SHARES

As of November 12, 2002

	BUYING	SELLING
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	650,000	700,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	-	250,000
CANLUBANG	-	600,000
CAPITOL HILLS	90,000	110,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	180,000	-
CLUB FILIPINO	-	200,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B"/C"*	-	350,000/450,000"/500,000 **
FONTANA D/C"/B"*	-	80,000/150,000"250,000 **
MAKATI SPORTS A/B'	250,000/210,000 *	255,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,600,000	2,900,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B'	-	600,000/700,000 *
METROPOLITAN A/B'	100,000/100,000 *	115,000/130,000 *
MIMOSA IND./C3'**		100,000/300,000**
ORCHARD A/B"/C"*	Please call	Please call
PUERTO AZUL	-	115,000
PUNTA FUEGO	-	Please call
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200,000	225,000
RIVIERA A/B"/C"*	-	185,000/350,000"/400,000 **
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	425,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF'	800,000 *	380,000/850,000 *
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	780,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	145,000	150,000
Wack Wack		6,700,000

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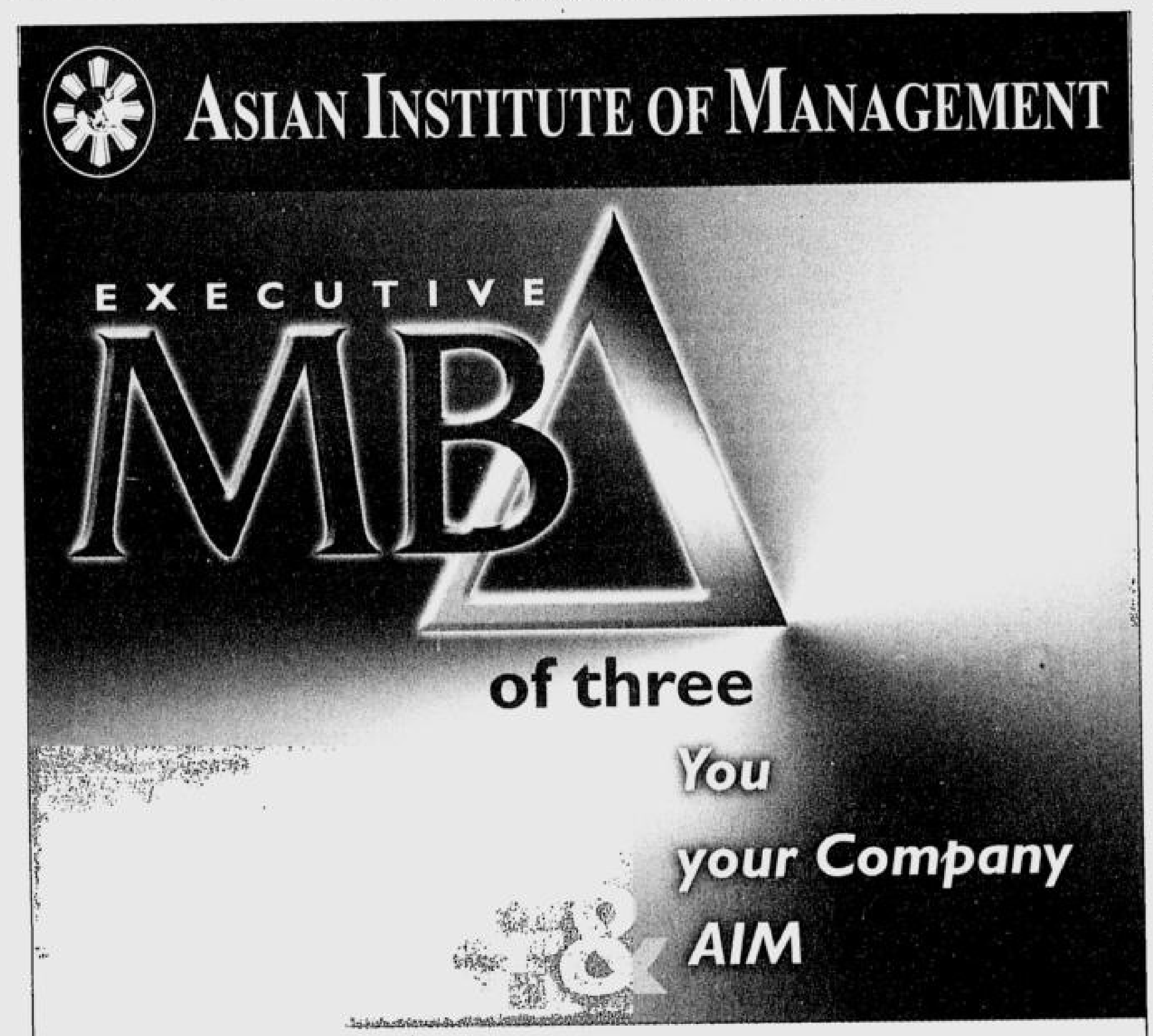

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The class dynamics in our batch is fantastic. I really learned a lot from my classmates. Not only are the fields of interests diverse, but even the age factor was a learning experience. The CAN and other group activities that we had really honed our ability to work with others, differences in personalities notwithstanding."

Wilma C. Bocaya
EMBA Manila 1 (with Distinction)
Production Manager, Jollibee Foods Corporation.

"I would recommend sending our other employees to the EMBA program because I believe it will provide our company the competitive advantage."

Victor C. Risma, Jr.
President, Meralco Energy, Inc. on George Campos, EMBA-Lopez, Manager, Meralco Energy, Inc.

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EMBA-Lopez (with Distinction)
Vice-President, First Philippine Industrial Park

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From a marketing specialist to a division generalist;
From a businessman to an entrepreneur;
From an individual to team player; and
From a student and will continue to be a perpetual student.
One thing for sure, the EMBA experience will remind me how dumb I was and still am."

Caloy Realuyo
EMBA Manila I,
Recently promoted as Managing Director, Sanofi-Synthelabo

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, November 11, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	1,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	42.5	41.5	41.5	63,500
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	5,730
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	53,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32	32	30.5	30.5	207,600
Philippine National Bank	28	28.5	28	28.5	3,400
Security Bank Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	35,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1	1	1	1	40,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1165	1165	1165	1165	3,590
Sun Life Financial Serv.	895	910	895	910	700
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	200,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	422.5	422.5	410	417.5	9,680
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.024	0.026	0.024	0.026	2,300,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.55	3.7	3.55	3.7	16,000
Piltel	0.23	0.245	0.23	0.24	2,030,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	246	255	245	252.5	373,350
Ivantage Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	70,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	10,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15	14.5	14.5	57,800
Manila Electric Co. B	20	20.25	18.75	19	1,990,100
Petron Corp.	1.62	1.66	1.62	1.64	2,179,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	290,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.24	2.24	2.24	2.24	226,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	40,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	82,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	60,700
RFM Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58.5	58.5	58	58.5	83,600
San Miguel Corp. B	64	64	63.5	64	442,500
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.65	4.65	1,262,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.42	2.42	2.38	2.4	685,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,680,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13	13	12.5	12.5	291,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100,000
Ionics Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.9	1.92	27,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	220,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	30,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000
Music Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	295,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	185,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.9	10	9.9	10	52,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	130,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	1,134,500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.1	5.1	5	5.1	6,506,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	130,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.92	0.93	0.91	0.93	2,780,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.4	2,151,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	150,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	140,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	100,000
Omico Corp.	0.002	0.0022	0.002	0.0022	25,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	350,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P) (P)
Bank & Fin Svc	420,120	19,410,450.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	27,402,530	210,464,835.00
PRO	11,867,000	47,573,700.00
Mining	25,740,000	222,500.00
OIL	0	0.00
GRAND TOTALS :	65,429,650	277,671,485.00

AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	407.49	DOWN 9.60
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,481.45	DOWN 6.24
PRO	471.10	DOWN 5.10
Mining	1,115.96	UP 12.89
OIL	1.25	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	620.73	DOWN 5.60
Composite	1,063.31	DOWN 10.81

NO. OF ADVANCES: 12; NO. OF DECLINES: 23; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 24;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 59; NO. OF TRADES: 1,402

CURRENCIES

Nov. 11, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.987069	1	52.873
Japan	Yen	0.008243	0.008351	0.4415
United Kingdom	Pound	1.571414	1.592	84.1738
Hongkong	Dollar	0.126564	0.128222	6.7795
Switzerland	Franc	0.684135	0.693097	36.6461
Canada	Dollar	0.630877	0.639141	33.7933
Singapore	Dollar	0.561154	0.568505	30.0586
Australia	Dollar	0.559658	0.56699	29.9785
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.61836	2.652661	140.2541
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.263219	0.266667	14.0995
Brunei	Dollar	0.558613	0.565931	29.9225
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000109	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.022966	0.023267	1.2302
UAE	Dirham	0.268773	0.272294	14.397
Euro	Euro	1	1.0131	53.5656
ArgentinaPeso	0.279623	0.283286	14.9782	
Brazil	REAL	0.280418	0.284091	15.0207
Denmark	Kroner	0.134581	0.136344	7.2089
India	Rupee	0.020483	0.020751	1.0972
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.25979	0.263193	13.9158
Mexico	New Peso	0.095692	0.096946	5.1258
New Zealand	Dollar	0.49255	0.499002	26.3837
Norway	Kroner	0.136521	0.138309	7.3128
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016873	0.017094	0.9038
South Africa	Rand	0.10116	0.102485	5.4187
Korea	Won	0.000824	0.000835	0.0441
Sweden	Kroner	0.10998	0.111421	5.8912
Syria	Pound	0.019166	0.019417	1.0266
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.028728	0.029104	1.5388
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000724	0.000733	0.0388

GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.

SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF NOV. 11, 2002

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,500,000	1,400,000
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,600,000	-
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	650,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	80,000	
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	250,000	240,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	550,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	100,000	90,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	180,000	170,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	360,000	350,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	190,000	140,000
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	130,000	100,000
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	330,000	300,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. LUISITA GOLF CLUB	350,000	300,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	270,000	250,000
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,500,000
21. MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP)	13,000,000	
22. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	2,600,000
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	600,000	550,000
24. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	700,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"		100,000
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	-
27. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)		350,000
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A" "B" "C"	Pls. call	Pls. call
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000	200,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	210,000	
32. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	360,000	300,000
33. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,850,000	
34. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND.)	250,000	
35. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB	850,000	775,000
36. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	750,000
37. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	170,000	150,000
38. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	320,000	310,000
39. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	8,900,000	

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DISCLOSURES

SAN Miguel Corp. has announced the election of Henry Sy Sr. as director, replacing Gabriel Villareal.

* * *

VULCAN Industrial & Mining Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 20, 3 p.m. at the 9/F Alakor Conference Room of Quad Alpha Centrum Building in Mandaluyong City. Stockholders of record as of Nov. 22 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

THE LISTING for **Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.'s** additional 32.94 million shares was set for Wednesday, Nov. 13.

* * *

MANILA Bulletin Publishing Corp. announced the retirement of Augusto Africa as EVP and corporate secretary of the company. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

T-bill . . .

From page B1

Governor Rafael Buenaventura said he had expected the drop in treasury bill yields saying that the government would benefit the most from the US Fed cut.

He said the cut in US rates would encourage more investors to keep or even increase their peso placements. The bigger difference between the dollar and peso returns provide more incentives for investors to stay in pesos and risk-free government securities.

Fitch to carefully evaluate RP fiscal deficit

By Clarissa S. Batino

FITCH Ratings, one of the world's Top 3 rating agencies based in the United Kingdom, has assured Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho that it would carefully evaluate the country's fiscal performance that has already led one rating agency to issue a negative outlook on the Philippines.

Camacho told reporters yesterday that he got the assurance after he spoke with Fitch Ratings officials over the phone last week to update them on the country's fiscal performance.

"They assured me that they would evaluate our performance on a month-to-month basis. If they do that, they would see that our (revenue) performance in the second half was a lot better," Camacho said.

The ballooning budget deficit, particularly the government's weak revenue performance, was the main reason behind Standard and Poor's decision two weeks ago to downgrade its rating outlook on the Philippines to negative from stable.

The budget deficit, or the gap between the government's income and expenditures, has reached P166.4 billion as of end-September.

Fitch and Moody's Investors Service have not yet taken the lead of S&P and have maintained their stable rating for the Philippines.

The stable ratings may be jeopardized, however, as revenue figures as of October are again off-target by P9.6 billion, according to a government source. Thus, the deficit in the first 10 months could reach at least P180 billion if the internal revenue collection would not improve.

Accounting for 80 percent of the annual revenues, the BIR's collection is closely-watched by rating firms as it would tell whether the government's revenue performance improved since July when some reforms were put in place.

Camacho said Moody's officials would send a team in December to review the country's fiscal performance.

"I admit that we screwed up in the first half but we are doing a good job now. The people must not be pre-occupied with the monthly figures and assess our performance on the longer term," said the finance chief.

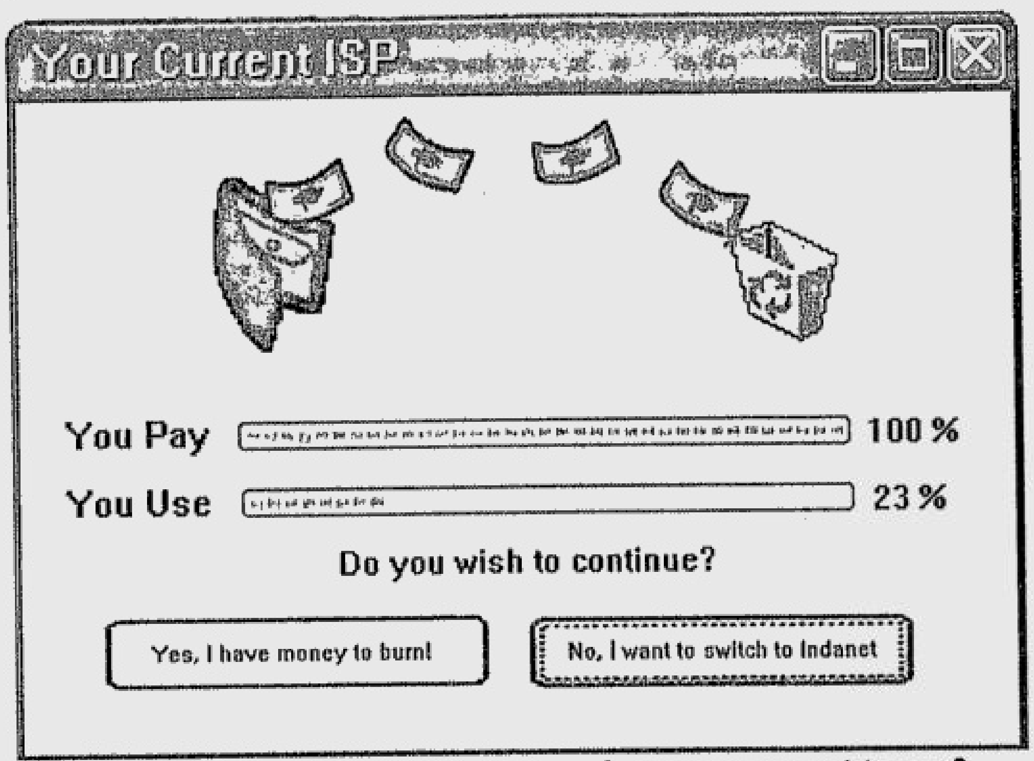
Asked whether the BIR's October collection would affect the perception of the markets and rating agencies, Camacho said a month does not make or break an economy.

"It is so tempting to do our fiscal updates on a quarterly basis next year so we won't feel like we are hostaged by the monthly developments," he said.

Cornell marks 90th yr

THE CORNELL Club of the Philippines is commemorating its 90th anniversary with a dinner celebration on Friday.

All graduates and friends of Cornell University are invited to attend this exciting event, to be held at 6 p.m. at the 42nd floor of Discovery Suites Hotel at the Ortigas Center.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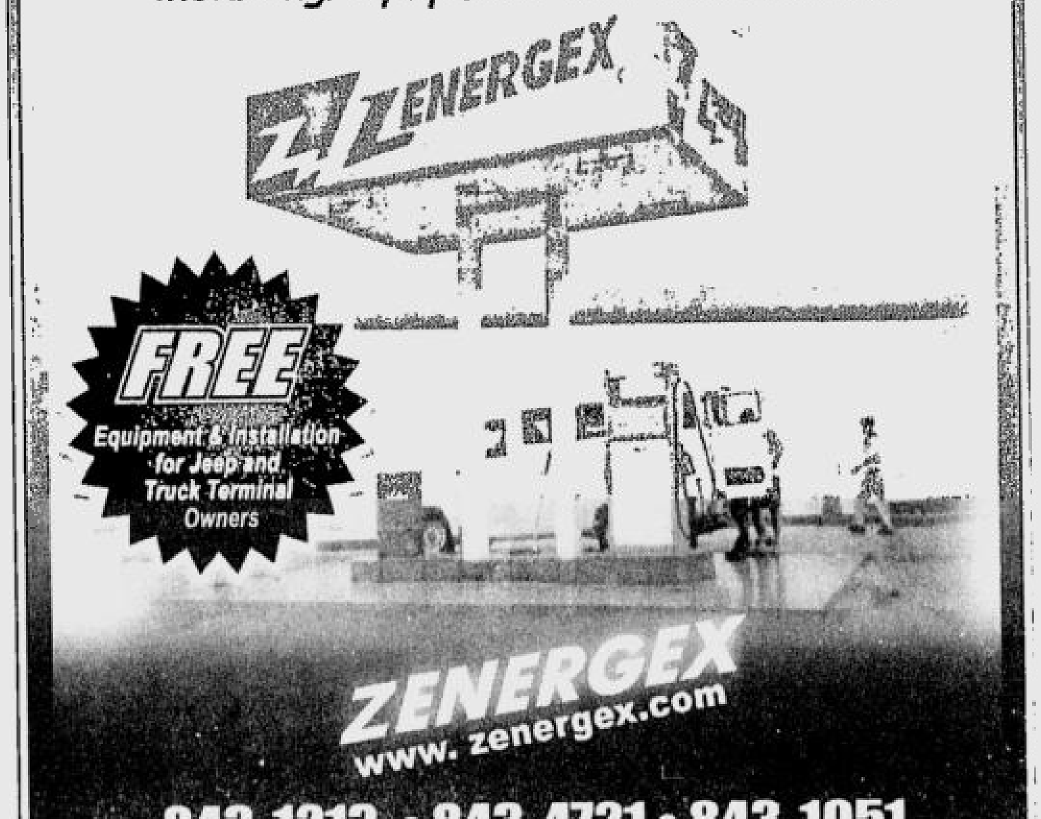

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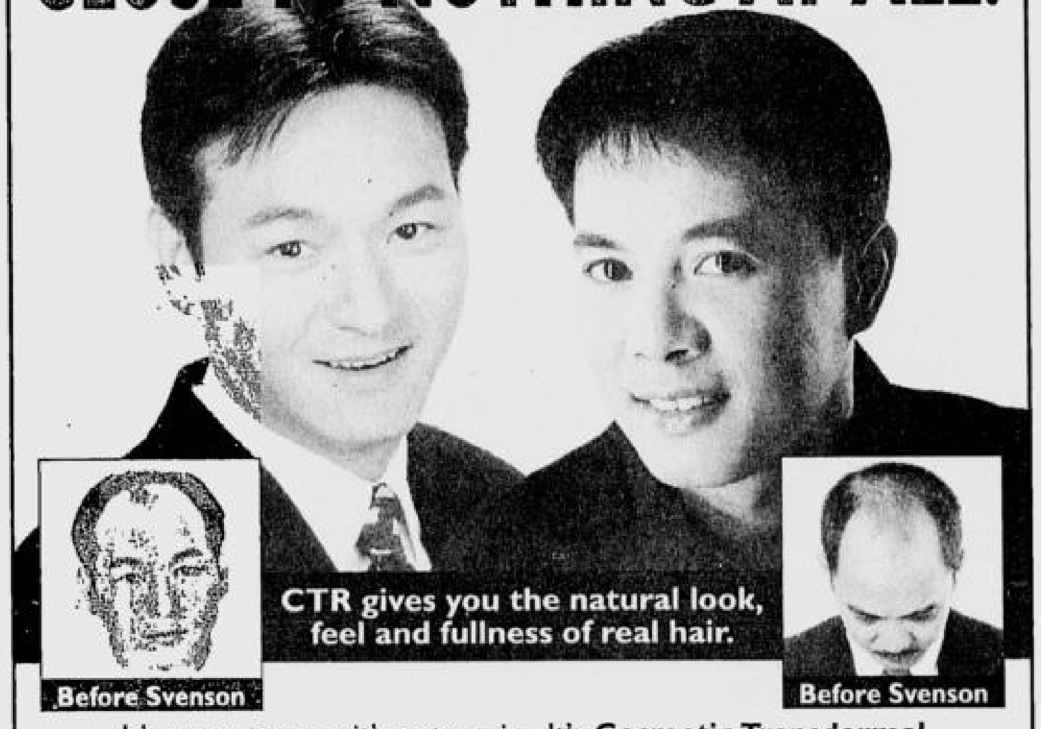
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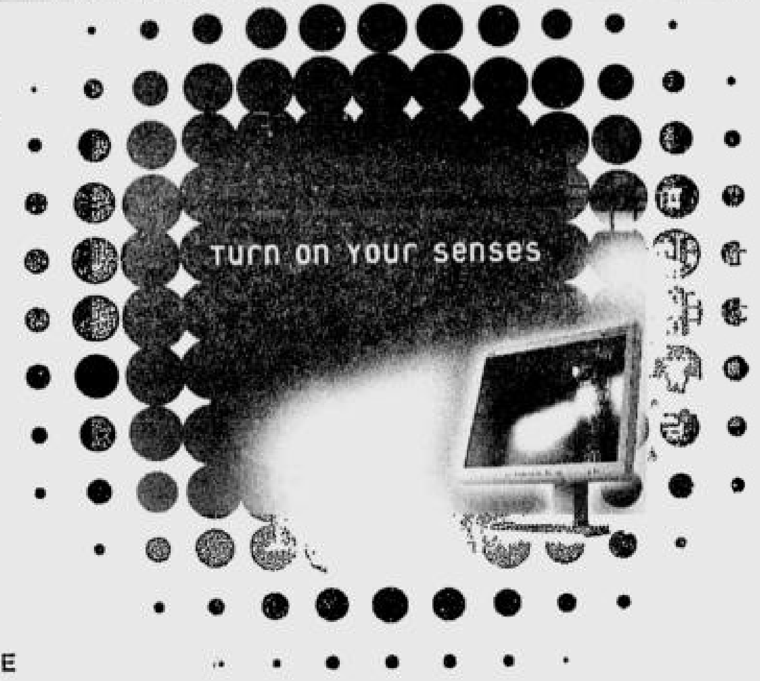

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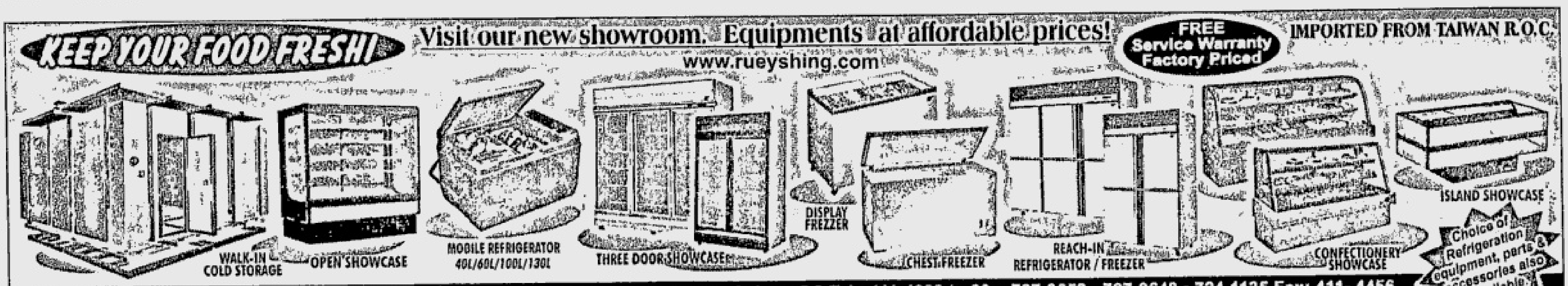
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Landbank to raise ₱5-B tier 2 capital

By Elena R. Torrijos

LAND Bank of the Philippines plans to raise as much as P5 billion in tier 2 capital in anticipation of possible pressures on its capital position.

"While we are still very comfortable with our CAR (capital adequacy ratio), we are also taking anticipatory steps on tier 2," Landbank executive vice president Alfonso Cruz said in a news briefing yesterday.

"The approach we are looking at is the subordinated debt issue and right now we are in very exploratory talks with foreign institutions willing to assist us," he added.

Tier 2 capital is a term used to describe the capital adequacy of a bank. It is secondary bank capital that includes items such as undisclosed reserves, general loss reserves, subordinated term debt and more.

Tier 1 capital, on the other hand, is core capital that includes equity capital and disclosed reserves.

Landbank president Margarito Teves said pending its tier 2 capital raising program, Landbank would work on getting Congress to amend its charter and allow at least multilateral institutions to invest in the bank.

Under its current charter, Landbank has to be fully owned and controlled by the government.

"We really need to improve financial stamina and strength," Teves said on the need to raise additional capital.

For its tier 2 capital raising plan, Landbank is talking to at least three financial institutions to act either as a financial adviser or investor.

Landbank officials said the proposed tier 2 issue would probably amount to between P4 billion and P5 billion and carry a tenor of five years.

Cruz said the issue would likely be denominated in US dollars.

ABS-CBN says Q3 net falls on slumping ad revenues

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., the country's largest media firm, said yesterday its net income in the third quarter fell 37 percent year on year to P274.14 million, as advertising, its main revenue driver, remained weak with most companies cutting down on costs.

The media firm, which operates television and FM/AM radio stations as well as cable television, posted a net profit of P435.52 million in the third quarter last year.

For the January to September period, ABS-CBN posted a net income of P481.96 million against P1.34 billion in the same period a year ago.

Revenue reached P5.42 billion in the first nine months against P6.09 billion in the same year-ago period.

Multex Global Estimates forecast a net income of P1.14 billion, or P1.40 a share, for ABS-CBN this year.

ABS-CBN shares fell 3.3 percent in the third quarter, under-performing the main index, which fell 2.3 percent in the same period.

On Monday, ABS-CBN, a unit of debt-laden conglomerate Benpres Holdings Corp., was untraded from its Nov. 8 close of P17.25, while the main index slid 1.01 percent to end at 1,063.31 points. *Reuters*

We still want to breathe. Please listen.

An appeal to lawmakers NOT TO DEFER full implementation of the CLEAN AIR ACT

Here are the facts:

- *Metro Manila ranks among the world's metropolitan areas with the dirtiest air.*
- *Ambient measures of PM10, the dust-like particles that contain soot coming from motor vehicle emissions, have reached up to 5 times the Philippine ambient standard in Metro Manila alone, or about 116,000 tons a year, with road transport being the largest direct source. PM10 is considered the most harmful air pollutant to human health, next to lead.*
- *In 1996, exposure to PM10 is estimated to have resulted in 5,000 premature deaths, about 500,000 cases of lower respiratory illness and 25,000 restricted activity days.*
- *Air pollution is not cheap.The government spends Php67 billion per year in respiratory and other related illnesses.*
- *Aromatics and benzene, present in unleaded gasoline, are very toxic and harmful to humans. Benzene is a known human carcinogen. Aromatics, on the other hand, cause harm to the ozone layer.*

Clearly, implementing solutions-through the Clean Air Act-can no longer be delayed. The recent moves in Congress to defer the implementation of the CAA provision on the reduction of aromatics and benzene content of gasoline products endanger the lives and health of the Filipino people. Likewise, the legislature and the executive body seem to become unwitting hostages of the biggest oil companies. These big oil companies have made pronouncements that complying with the CAA would mean fuel price hike and retooling their refineries, for which they don't have enough time. We believe that they have been given enough time (3 years) to prepare for the requirements of the CAA. The price increase scare is not enough reason to further sacrifice the health and productivity of our people.

We, therefore, appeal to our lawmakers and national leaders to stand firm and unwavering in implementing the Clean Air Act effective January 1, 2003. Any move to defer its implementation will be regarded as lack of political will and concern for the health, well-being and productivity of the nation.

To all concerned citizens, it is time to share the responsibility of cleaning our air through the following:

- *Appeal to lawmakers and national leaders for full implementation of the Clean Air Act now*
- *Regularly check your vehicles for emissions and other engine problems*
- *Report smoke belching (through 2366)*
- *Use clean fuels and support fuel companies that will comply with the Clean Air Act in January 1, 2003*
- *Form organizations and discuss clean air issues in your barangays*
- *E-mail/text your friends and families about the urgency of cleaning our air*

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Multitel's . . .

From page B1

the release of the principal and interest to investors.

Together with the document, MIHI would issue a peso cash transfer slip or a dollar cash transfer slip authorizing the transfer of funds to the claiming conduit in accordance with the reports and list of acknowledged terminations.

Slips used to be presented to MIHI's maintaining bank for payment, but some investors said these were lately done on cash basis. The conduits would pick up the money from Baladjay's homes in Ayala Alabang or Aspen Condominium, where she moved later on.

Religious payment

The key to any Ponzi scheme's success is the payment of the amount promised. In the case of Multitel, the group paid religiously for two years until September and October this year.

The erstwhile consistent practice of payment spawned a lot of investors, who subsequently enticed more investors, providing enough liquidity for those terminating to be paid.

The doctor-investor explained that investors of Multitel who were able to attract new investors were offered to become "sub-counselors."

Veteran investors getting 10 percent who became sub-counselors could offer 8 percent to their investors and get the 2 percentage points as principal. So not only would the original investors be able to earn from the original investment, they would also earn from the investments of others.

The counselors and sub-counselors usually issued their own checks to their investors and got from MIHI matching checks or cash to cover for their payments.

Bubble burst

Now that the bubble has burst for Multitel, these counselors and sub-counselors are now desperately seeking Baladjay, who is rumored to have holed up somewhere in Batangas, to cover for the promised payments to terminating investors.

Some of the investors-turned-counselors included a well-known singer who supposedly had been handling a P120-million portfolio.

The Multitel group accepted both dollar and peso placements, promising the same return on both currencies in which the investments were denominated. The investments were said to range from as low as P10,000 to as high as P100 million.

The group was receiving so much money that when INQUIRER business columnist Conrado Banal was criticizing it, some P2 billion were terminated by its investors. "It did not collapse then, but now, nothing, zero," the doctor-investor said.

Falling out

The Multitel insider said Baladjay, who was rather trusting, often had a falling out with some of her people.

Marissa Castulo and Conrado Ariola, both incorporators and nominal shareholders of MIHI, supposedly had differences with Baladjay, possibly from the handling of Everflow, as the two were also said to be incorporators of that conduit.

Baladjay was also said to have had sharp exchanges with Everflow chair Iris Aquino when she decided to cut off the conduit relationship between MIHI and Everflow.

In a letter to Aquino dated May 24 this year, Baladjay said: "From now on all terminations, including those already submitted, will be handled by the Alabang office and will only be given directly to the investors. No funds will be transferred to you until all investors' termination/interests have been settled and audited."

'Blow up everything'

In response, Aquino said the unilateral intention of settling termination directly at Baladjay's residence was unacceptable to her investors because it was with Everflow that these people were doing business with.

"If you will not settle and/or pay terminations and interest filed by our end by Monday, you are complicating matters and this will blow up everything," Aquino said. "Your illegal nightly operation will come to fore, and I will be very sorry if that will happen. You should not do to Everflow what you have done to Multilink."

"Do remember that transactions were coursed through Everflow, and responsibility lies on our shoulders. You will be courting disaster if you miscomprehend this situation," she warned Baladjay.

Near the end, Baladjay seemed to be using only one conduit—F&A International Investments Financial Management Corp.—under the supervision of Julius Fuentabella, whose father, Lorio, was a special assistant to Bicol Rep. Noli Fuentabella. Lorio's brother, Franklin, is presidential adviser on Western Visayas.

The younger Fuentabella, one of the incorporators and nominal shareholders of MIHI, has been missing for roughly three weeks. Even his in-laws—he is married to a Charaine Arid—are reportedly looking for him as they have also investments tied up with F&A.

Bailing out

It seemed that some of those around Baladjay were already preparing their exit as early as September, when it seemed that the SEC was very much hot on the Multitel group's trail.

One document obtained by the INQUIRER suggested that a certain Joey Palomar of F&A concocted fictitious individuals and corresponding investments to get money from MIHI.

In the document—a letter to a one Juliet, Palomar asked: "Let's pray that we will get out of this mess. Are the names okay? Sounds *mayaman* (rich), *ba*?"

One insider claimed that some counselors or sub-counselors, based on F&A documents, were not even counselors as investors' claims were padded to get more money from Baladjay. *(To be continued)*

Danaharta, RP banks to sign NSC debt restructuring deal

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PENGURUSAN Danaharta Nasional Bhd. and National Steel Corp.'s Philippine creditor banks are set to sign tomorrow, Nov. 13, in Malaysia a debt restructuring agreement, putting to a close nearly three years of negotiations on the reopening of the steel giant's Iligan steel mill.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II, who took the initiative in forging a compromise agreement between the Malaysian owners and the Philippine banks, said the deal would slash NSC's debt from P18 billion (including penalties) to a more manageable P2 billion. Of the total, P6 billion would be written off by the banks while the balance will be converted into an equity in the company.

Roxas said Danaharta has agreed to reduce its equity holdings in NSC from 82.5 percent to 20 percent with creditor banks led by Philippine National Bank taking over the majority control.

The Philippine banks, however, have agreed to give Danaharta a say on the disposal of major assets that would be sold at less than 80 percent of their appraised value. Roxas said this was the concession given by the banks to convince the Malaysian company to approve the conversion of NSC's debt into equity.

Danaharta took over the NSC shares as part of its takeover of the assets owned by financially troubled Renong Berhad in 1998. The state-owned Renong, through Hottick Investments Ltd., acquired NSC when it bailed out in 1997 another Malaysian firm, the Wing Tiek Holdings group, that won the majority control of NSC in a bidding in 1995.

The restructuring is expected to pave the way for the long-awaited reopening of the Iligan steel mill which was closed in 1999 due to mounting losses arising from competition from cheap steel imports and high interest expenses.

Aside from PNB, the other NSC creditors are Allied Banking Corp., Land Bank of the Philippines, United Overseas Bank Philippines, Global Banking Corp., Bank of Commerce, China Banking Corp., Equitable PCI Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Traders Royal Bank, United Coconut Planters Bank, Urban Bank, Credit Agricole Indosuez and Wise Citco.

Others holding minority stakes in NSC are National Development Co. and Marubeni Corp.

PNB cuts losses

PHILIPPINE National Bank yesterday said it had cut its net loss as of October to P1.4 billion from P1.5 billion in the first nine months following an aggressive sale of small assets.

PNB president Lorenzo Tan told reporters that as of October, PNB had sold P2.1 billion worth of real and other properties owned or acquired (Ropoa), overshooting its full-year target of P1.5 billion.

PNB was able to post a profit of about P100 million in October.

Tan said the declining net loss of PNB meant the bank was on track to its target of bringing down losses to a range of P2.9 billion to P3.1 billion this year from about P4.1 billion last year.

"We would use the buffer for additional provisions," said the bank president.

Breaktime . . .

From page B2

Of course Villarama does not reveal the name of the Cabinet member. He claims in various reports that he is still gathering the documents to prove the dollar payoffs.

How could the good congressman claim the existence of the payoffs, I wonder, if by his own admission, he does not have the proof? Guesswork, I guess.

Anyway, he even gives us some clues. He says the dollar payoffs came from cronies of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

I wonder who among the Cabinet members must deal directly with the stories of Wrist Band, who is facing multiple charges from guys like . . . well, Chavit Singson.

Don't tell me it's Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman! The last time I checked, no crony—either past, immediate, or present—is on welfare.

* * *

BUT back to Vince the Silent, who is trying to reshuffle some key executives in Napocor, apparently as a last ditch attempt to save his ... well, censored body part.

He says he was nowhere near Napocor when all those alleged stealing took place. He even welcomes an investigation of the alleged scams. So is that it?

Leniency is unforgivable, if you are talking about multibillion-peso deals, courtesy of the state-owned Napocor, meaning, we the public only end up paying for them.

Sen. Serge Osmeña makes honorable mention of the CBK contract, which Napocor awarded to the Argentine firm Impsa, which not too long ago made MJ famous.

Osmeña cannot understand why Napocor already paid Impsa $50 million, when Impsa only spent $9 million for the CBK project, and Vince the Silent was silent about it.

The good secretary even hired a New Zealand firm to audit the CBK project. This gave him the right to withhold part of the audit report that said, well, we were robbed.

* * *

IF you believe this thing called Piso, PLDT is the poster model of unfair business practices in the Philippines. Piso is not the coin. Well, it is only a coined word.

It stands for the Philippine Internet Services Organization, made up of 25 firms providing dial-up Internet connection to the public, by way of—what else—PLDT lines.

Let me see who is doing some unfair business practices here. From what I gathered, 20 of the 25 members of Piso owe PLDT about P120 million.

They have not been paying their phone bills for the past 10 months or so, doing anything to avoid payment, such as throwing tantrums over the bills, or just plain ignoring them.

To think, PLDT does not even cut off their lines. You and I, if we don't pay my phone bill in a month, we get cut off. What makes Piso members special?

Well, maybe it's because, as PLDT subscribers, they are part owner of PLDT. But wait a minute here, we are PLDT subscribers, and as such, we also own it.

For the benefit of all of us, PLDT subscribers, here are the Piso members: Brocheire Online, Bistop Internet, Compass Internet, Convergence Solutions, EasyCall Phil., Email Co., Evoserve, I-manila Tridel, Impact Internet, Imperium Technologies, Incredibly Fast Internet, Infobahn, Internet, Mailstation, Mindgate Systems, Moxcom Communications, Pacific Internet, Philippines Online, Philworld, Phnet, Quik Internet, Virtual Asia, Weblinq, Web Philippines, and World Tel Phil.

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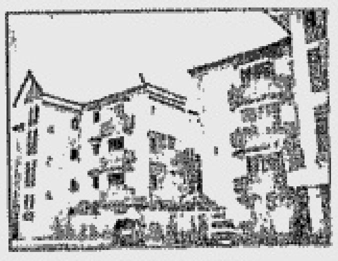

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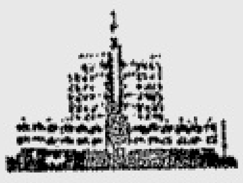

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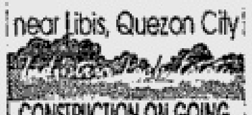

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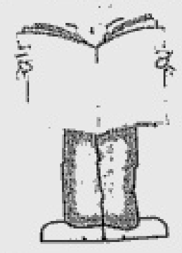

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Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
4th JUDICIAL REGION
Branch 47
Palawan

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,
- *Versus* -
HEIRS OF CORNELIO MIGUEL,
Defendant,
x--------------------------------x
CIVIL CASE NO. 3691
For: EMINENT DOMAIN

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,
- *Versus* -
LOURDES M. MANALO,
Defendant,
x--------------------------------x
CIVIL CASE NO. 3692
For: EMINENT DOMAIN

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,
- *Versus* -
HEIRS OF JOVENCIO MIGUEL
Namely: CHEMI M. SATO, ET. AL.,
Defendants,
x--------------------------------x
CIVIL CASE NO. 3693
For: EMINENT DOMAIN

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

To: **HEIRS OF CORNELIO MIGUEL, LOURDES M. MANALO, HEIRS OF JOVENCIO MIGUEL namely: CHEMI M. SATO, JESSIE MIGUEL, EDEN MIGUEL and MICHIE MIGUEL.**

WHEREAS, a verified Complaint was filed by the NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NPC), thru the Solicitor General, against the **HEIRS OF CORNELIO MIGUEL, LOURDES M. MANALO, and HEIRS OF JOVENCIO MIGUEL namely: CHEMI M. SATO, JESSIE MIGUEL, EDEN MIGUEL and MICHIE MIGUEL**, which is quoted as follows:

COMPLAINT

"Plaintiff National Power Corporation (NPC), by Counsel, respectfully avers that:

1. Plaintiff is a government-owned and controlled corporation created and existing by virtue of Republic Act No. 6395, as amended, with principal office address at NPC Office Building Complex cor. Quezon Avenue and Agham Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, where it may be served with court processes;

2. A **Civil Case No. 3691**

Defendant Heirs of Cornelio Miguel are all of legal ages, Filipinos and are named hereunder together with their residence and postal/office address where they may be served with summons and other court processes or through their authorized representatives;

x x x

2-4. Lourdes M. Manalo - said to reside somewhere in the USA, hence, service of summons by publication may be resorted to pursuant to Sec. 17 of Rule 14. Her last known address is Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City;

x x x

2-6. Heirs of Angel Miguel namely;

x x x

2-6-10 Ma. Corinna M. Quicho - Zurich, Switzerland, hence, service of summons by publication may be resorted to pursuant to Sec. 17 of Rule 14. Her last known address is Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City.

2-7. Heirs of Jovencio Miguel namely;
- 2-7-1. Chiemi M. Sato
- 2-7-2. Jessie Miguel
- 2-7-3. Eden Miguel
- 2-7-4. Michie Miguel

Who are all said to reside at Kansas City, USA hence, service of summons by publication may be resorted to pursuant to Sec. 17 of Rule 14. Their last known address is 156 Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City;

2-8. Heirs of Rodolfo Miguel namely:
- 2-8-1. Sonny Miguel
- 2-8-2. Ruby M. Palattao

Who are all said to reside at San Francisco, California, USA, hence, service of summons by publication may be resorted to pursuant to Sec. 17 of Rule 14. Their last known address is 156 Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City;

2-9. And unknown others, to whom service of summons by publication may be resorted to pursuant to Sec. 16 of Rule 14;

2.B **Civil Case No. 3692**

Defendant Lourdes M. Manalo is of legal age, Filipino and is said to reside somewhere in the United States, hence, service of summons by publication may be resorted to pursuant to Sec. 17 of Rule 14. Her last known address is Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City.

2.C **Civil Case No. 3693**

Defendants, Heirs of Jovencio Miguel, are all said to be of legal ages, US citizens and are said to reside somwhere at Kansas City, USA, hence, substitute service by publication may be resorted to pursuant to Section 17 of Rule 14;

3. Plaintiff NPC was created for the purpose of undertaking the development of hydro-electric generation power production of electricity from any and all sources and particularly the construction, operation, and maintenance of power plants, auxiliary plants, dams, reservoirs, pipes, mains, transmission lines, power station and substations, and other works for the purpose of developing hydraulic power from any river, lake, creek, spring and waterfalls in the Philippines and supplying such power to the inhabitants thereof, and to carry out these purposes, plaintiff NPC is authorized by the law creating it, RA 6395 as amended, to enter private property in the lawful performance of its business purposes, provided that the owners of such private property shall be indemnified for any actual damage caused thereby, and to exercise the right of eminent domain;

4.A **Civil Case No. 3691**

Defendants - heirs of Cornelio Miguel are the legal owners of a parcel of land situated at Brgy. Tiniguiban, Puerto Princesa City, Province of Palawan as shown in the attached **Tax Declaration No. 061-8851** marked as Annex "A" and **TCT-4253** copy of which is attached as Annex "B", more particularly described below together with the affected area sought to be expropriated and the corresponding BIR zonal value, per attached copy of BIR zonal valuation marked as Annex "C"; to wit:

OWNER	TITLE NO.	TAX DEC NO./ LOT NO.	TOTAL AREA	AREA AFF'D IN SQ.M	ASSESSED VALUE OF AREA AFFECTED	VALUE BASED ON BIR ZONAL VALUATION	CLASSIFICATION OF LAND
CORNELIO MIGUEL	4253	TD NO. 061-8851 LOT NO. 2-1 (LRC) Psd-146879	2,132 sq.m.	112.35 sq.m. more or less	P13,064.65	P31,978.4	Residential

4.B **Civil Case No. 3692**

Defendant is the legal owner of a parcel of land situated at Brgy. Tiniguiban, Puerto Princesa City, Province of Palawan as shown in the attached **Tax Declaration No. 061-8858** marked as Annex "A" and **TCT No. T-4194** copy of which is attached as Annex "B", more particularly described below together with the affected area sought to be expropriated and the corresponding BIR zonal valuation, per attached copy of BIR zonal valuation marked as Annex "C"; to wit:

OWNER	TITLE NO.	TAX DEC NO./ LOT NO.	TOTAL AREA	AREA AFF'D IN SQ.M	ASSESSED VALUE OF AREA AFFECTED	VALUE BASED ON BIR ZONAL VALUATION	CLASSIFICATION OF LAND
LOURDES M. MANALO	4194	TD NO. 061-8858 OT NO. I-E (LRC) Psd-146879	6,136 sq.m.	26.04 sq.m. more or less	P425.07	P7,167.00	Residential

4.C **Civil Case No. 3693**

Defendants are the legal owners of a parcel of land situated at Brgy. Tiniguiban, Puerto Princesa City, Province of Palawan as shown in the attached Tax Declaration marked as Annex "A", **TCT No. T – 4208** copy of which is attached by Annex "B" and more particularly described below together with the affected area sought to be expropriated and the corresponding BIR Zonal Value, per attached copy of BIR Zonal Valuation marked as Annex "C"; to wit;

OWNER	TITLE NO.	TAX DEC NO./ LOT NO.	TOTAL AREA	AREA AFF'D IN SQ.M	ASSESSED VALUE OF AREA AFFECTED	VALUE BASED ON BIR ZONAL VALUATION	CLASSIFICATION OF LAND
Heirs of Jovencio Miguel	4208	TD No. 01-8856 Lot No. I-H-Psd-146789	2,729	234.4 2 sq.m. more or or less	P7,032.60	P64,465.50	Residential

5. To enable the plaintiff to construct and maintain its 13.8 kv Puerto Princesa Diesel Power Plant (PPDPP)-Irawan Substation by-pass Line, a project for public purpose, it is both necessary and urgent for plaintiff to acquire a portion of the above parcel of land consisting of a total area of 234.42 sq.m., more or less, shown and shaded in the attached sketch plan marked as Annex "D" and made integral part hereof;

6. The above-described parcel of land sought to be expropriated has not been applied to nore expropriated for any public use and is selected by plaintiff in a manner compatible with the greatest public good and the least private injury;

7. Plaintiff has attempted to negotiate with the defendants for the acquisition of a portion of the above parcel of land for the public purpose as above-stated at a price prescribed by law, but failed to reach an agreement with them for they are said to reside at an unknown place at Kansas City, USA;

8. Pursuant to Section 2 of Rule 67 of the 1997 Rules on Civil Procedure, upon the filing in the proper court of the complaint in eminent domain proceeding or at any time thereafter, and after due notice to the defendants, plaintiff shall have the right to take or enter upon the possession of the real properties involved if it deposits with the authorized government depository an amount equivalent to the assessed value of the property for purposes of taxation to be held by said bank subject to the orders of the court while pursuant to RA 8974, Section 4 (a), upon the filing of the complaint, and after due notice to the defendant, the implementing agency shall immediately pay the owner of the property the amount equivalent to the sum of (1) one hundred percent (100%) of the value of the property based on the current relevant zonal valuation of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR); and (2) the value of the improvements and/or structures as determined under Section 7 hereof, x x x Upon compliance with the guidelines above mentioned, the court shall immediately issue to the implementing agency an order to take possession of the property and start the implementation of the project;

9. Considering that the BIR zonal Valuation is more favorable to the landowner, plaintiff is willing to deposit that amount in an authorized government depository bank for purposes of the issuance of the corresponding writ of possession, subject to the orders and final disposition of the Court in accordance with Section 2, Rule 67 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure, Section 4 of RA 8974 and in line with the Decision of the Supreme Court in the case of National Power Corporation vs. Hon. Enrique T. Jocson, et. AL; G.R. Nos. 94193-99, February 25, 1992.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, plaintiff most respectfully prays of this Honorable Court that:

1.A. **Civil Case No. 3691**

In the event that defendant refuse to allow plaintiff to enter and undertake the construction of its project in spite of the deposit made and the Notice to Take Possession pursuant to Section 2 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure and Section 4 of RA 8974 this Honorable Court issue an Order or Writ of Possession authorizing plaintiff to enter and take possession and control and acquire the portion of the property consisting of **112.35** sq.m. more or less, described in paragraphs 4 and 5 hereof, together with the improvements, sought to be expropriated with the power and authority to demolish all improvements existing thereof and to commence and undertake the construction of the 13.8 KV PPDPP -- Irawan Substation by-pass Line on the said property.

1.B **Civil Case No. 3692**

In the event that the defendant refuse to allow plaintiff to enter and undertake the construction of its project in spite of the deposit made and the Notice to Take Possession pursuant to Section 2 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure and Section 4 of RA 8974 this Honorable Court issue an Order or Writ of Possession authorizing plaintiff to enter and take possession and control and acquire the portion of the property consisting of 26.04 sq.m. more or less, described in paragraphs 4 and 5 hereof, together with the improvements, sought to be expropriated with the power and authority to demolish all improvements existing thereof and to commence and undertake the construction of the 13.8 kV PPDPP – Irawan Substation by-pass Line on the said property;

1.C. **Civil Case No. 3693**

In the event that defendant refuse to allow plaintiff to enter and undertake the construction of its project in spite of the deposit made and the Notice to Take Possession pursuant to Section 2 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure and Section 4 of RA 8974 this Honorable Court issue an Order or Writ of Possession authorizing plaintiff to enter and take possession and control and acquire the portion of the property consisting of **234.42** sq.m. more or less, described in paragraphs 4 and 5 hereof, together with the improvements, sought to be expropriated with the power and authority to demolish all improvements existing thereof and to commence and undertake the construction of the 13.8 kV PPDPP – Iran Substation by-pass Line on the said property;

2. Should the defendants fail to submit an answer within the time specified in the summons, or when the defendants fail to defend as required by the Rules of Court, to forthwith issue an Order of Expropriation condemning the property together with its improvements sought to be expropriated, for public use or purpose described in the Complaint;

3. Not more than three (3) Commissioners be appointed by the Court to hear the parties, view the premises, assess the damage and report to the court the just compensation to be paid to defendants pursuant to Rule 67;

4. After the determination of the just compensation, to authorize the payment thereof by plaintiff to defendants after deducting the sums due to the Government for unpaid real estate taxes and other imposts;

5. Plaintiff be adjudged by this Honorable Court to have a lawful right to enter, take possession and acquire the portion of the property together with the improvements sought to be expropriated for the purpose stated, free from any and all liens and encumbrances, as stated in the Complaint.

Plaintiff prays for such other and further reliefs as are deemed just and equitable under the premises.

Quezon City for Puerto Princesa City, August 21, 2002.

FOR THE SOLICITOR GENERAL:
Sgd. RAINIER V. BUTALID
VP-General Counsel
IBP No. 556090, 2/18/02-Masbate
PTR No. 31289331, 2/18/02, Q.C

Sgd. JOSEPH F.M. DECHAVEZ
Sr. Department Manager
Land & Land Rights Management Group
Special Attorney, OSG
IBP No. 556343, 2/20/02, Sorsogon
PTR No. 31297682, 2/20/02, Quezon City

Sgd. LUIS MANUEL U. BUGAYONG
Department Manager
Real Estate Documentation Department
Land & Land Rights Management Group
Special Attorney, OSG
IBP No. 557372, 3/6/02, Pangasinan
PTR No. 31751996, 3/6/02, Quezon City

Sgd. JEAN LOU N. AGUILAR
Corporate Attorney B
Special Attorney-OSG
IBP No. 502940, 12/26/01 Palawan
PTR No. 4399829, 4/02/02 Manila

Counsel for Plaintiff
National Power Corporation
Cor. Agham Road and Quezon Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City

VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
PUERTO PRINCESA CITY) S.S.

I, **MR. ROMUALDO A. CONSIGNA**, after having been duly sworn to in accordance with law, hereby depose and say that:

1. I am the Project Manager of Palawan Backbone Transmission Project of the National Power Corporation, plaintiff in this case;
2. I have caused the preparation of the foregoing Complaint and have read and understood all the allegations contained therein, and the same is true and correct of my knowledge;
3. I certify under oath that-
   a) the plaintiff has not commenced any other action or proceeding which is pending in the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, or any other Tribunal or agency;
   b) to the best of my knowledge, no such action or proceeding is pending in the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, or any other tribunal or agency;
4. I likewise undertake that-
   a) If there is any other action or proceeding which is either pending or may have been terminated, I will state the status thereof;
   b) If I should thereafter learn that a similar action or proceeding has been filed or is pending before the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, or any other tribunal or Agency, I will undertake to report the fact within five (5) days therefrom to the court of agency wherein the original pleading and sworn certification contemplated in Administrative Circular No. 04-94 dated February 8, 1994.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this 21st day of August 2002, in Puerto Princesa City, Philippines.

Sgd. ROMUALDO A. CONSIGNA
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 21st day of August 2002, affiant exhibited to me his Community Tax Certificate No. 01854722 issued at Manila on February 27, 2002.

Sgd. JEAN LOU N. AGUILAR
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2003
IBP No. 502940, 12/26/01, Palawan
PTR No. 4399829, 04/02/02, PPC

Doc. No. 221
Page No. 46
Book No. 01
Series of 2002.

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2002, Summons were issued by the Court to the above-mentioned defendants, which Sheriff Paul Gabayan tried to serve to all the defendants at the given addresses.

WHEREAS, Plaintiff through Counsel filed a motion asking for leave of Court to serve summons upon the defendants whose whereabouts are unknown, by way of publication in the newspaper pursuant to Sections 16 and 17 of Rule 14 of the 1997 Rules of Court.

WHEREAS, the Court granted said motion in its Order dated October 18, 2002, which reads as follows.

"ORDER"

"Pursuant to Sec. 17 of Rule 14 of the Rules of Court the Ex-Parte Motion to Service Summons by Publication in the above-captioned cases is hereby granted. Thus, AS PRAYED FOR leave of Court is hereby granted for service of summons by publication to the following named persons who are non-residents and cannot be found in the Philippines:

1) Heirs of Cornelio Miguel
   - 1.1 Lourdes Miguel Manila
   - 1.2 Ma. Corinna Miguel-Quicho
   - 1.3 Chiemi Miguel-Sato
   - 1.4 Jessie Miguel
   - 1.5 Eden Miguel
   - 1.6 Michie Miguel
   - 1.7 Sonny Miguel
   - 1.8 Ruby Miguel-Palattao

2. Heirs of Jovencio Miguel
   - 2.1 Chiemi Miguel-Sato - Kansas City, USA
   - 2.2 Jessie Miguel - -do-
   - 2.3 Eden Miguel - -do-
   - 2.4 Michie Miguel - -do-

3. Lourdes Miguel Manalo

Likewise, considering that the plaintiff is not totally familiar with all the descendants of Cornelio Miguel, service to those others who may claim to be the heirs of said persons is granted pursuant to Sec. 16 of Rule 14, Rules of Court.

SO ORDERED"

NOW, THEREFORE, you Defendants: Heirs of Cornelio Miguel, Lourdes Miguel Manalo, Ma. Corinna Miguel-Quicho, Chiemi Miguel-Sato, Jessie Miguel, Eden Miguel, Michie Miguel, Sonny Miguel, Ruby Miguel-Palattao, and all others who may claim to be the heirs of said persons, are hereby required to file with the Office of the Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court of Palawan, 4th Judicial Region, Branch 47, Puerto Princesa,City answers or responsive pleadings to the Complaint of the Plaintiff, within sixty (60) days from the date of the last portion hereof, or after notice, whichever comes first and to furnish copies of your answers to the Plaintiff through the Solicitor General with address c/o Atty. Jean Lou N. Aguilar, Special Attorney, National Power Corporation (NPC), Palawan Backbone Transmission Project, 108 Manalo St., Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. If you fail to file your answer to the Complaint within the designated time herein, plaintiff shall take judgement against you and shall demand from the Court the relief prayed for in the Complaint, after hearing.

WITNESS, the Hon. Perfecto E. Pe, Presiding Judge of this Court, this 28th day of October 2002.
Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

NORFERIO B. NONO
Clerk of Court

(PDI--Nov 12, 19 & 26, 2002)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Spider skill

Q. Why doesn't a spider get caught in its own web?

A. Spider webs consist of spirals of sticky threads arranged on a framework of dry, slippery threads that radiate out from the center. The spider simply walks on the dry threads, thereby avoiding the sticky substance. It keeps from slipping by grasping the slippery strands with curved claws extending from its legs. For insurance, the spider's legs are coated with an oil that allows it to take short trips on the sticky substance without getting stuck.

Ooops! Spider do not eat their prey as most people believe. Rather, they drink them. Spiders inject an enzyme into their victim that digests and dissolves the tissues. They then suck these juices from their victims for nourishment.

Pinoy First. Considered the first modern building in the Philippines was the Crystal Arcade, a landmark shopping mall inaugurated in Escolta, Manila in 1932. Designed and owned by Andres Luna de San Pedro, it consisted of three stories and occupied an area of 2,875 sqm. and cost P1,500.00 to build. The Crystal Arcade was the first shopping mall in the country to feature a walk-way leading to the glass-walled shops on the first floor, and had basement parking. But the grand building did not survive the ravages of World War II, and on its site now stands the Philippine National Bank building.

WORD WATCH

Pavilion (puh vil yun) : from the Latin *papilio*, 'butterfly.'

PDI -- November 12, 2002

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
PASEGURUHAN NG MGA NAGLILINGKOD
SA PAMAHALAAN
(GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon 1101

QUEZON CITY BRANCH BIDDING & AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The **GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM** invites all interested parties to prequalify and submit sealed proposals for the office requirements of the GSIS Quezon City Branch Office, as follows:

ITEMS/DESCRIPTION

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2003
To handle the following:

1. JANITORIAL SERVICES – nine (9) janitors
2. SECURITY – eleven (11) security guards

Inquiries on pre-qualificiation, details of the requirements, terms and conditions, and official Bid Forms may be referred to the Chief, Administrative Division, GSIS Quezon City Branch Office, during office hours at Tel. Nos. 922-61-78 or 924-27-41.

For the purpose, the Bidding Schedule as prescribed:

Pre-qualification : Nov. 22, 2002
Date of Bidding : Dec. 03, 2002
9:00 AM Security Services
2:00 PM Janitorial Services

Sealed bids in triplicate shall be submitted with a refundable cash bid. Manager's/Cashier's of Certified Checks shall be acceptable as cash. Bid shall be in accordance with the new wage orders mandated by law.

The GSIS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect of informality on the bids received, and accept the bid deemed most advantageous to the System, but does not guarantee that any award shall be made. Its decision shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **DOMINADOR P. EVANGELISTA**
Manager

(PDI – Nov. 12 & 13, 2002)

Office of the President
BCDA
Bases Conversion Development Authority

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE SALE/PURCHASE OR LEASE OF BCDA-OWNED UNITS IN PACIFIC PLAZA TOWERS ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM - PHASE 2

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in Phase 2 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP-Phase 2). ADP Phase 2 involves, among others, the sale or lease of BCDA-owned units in Pacific Plaza Towers in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Interested proponents may submit to BCDA their Letters of Interest/Intent and can obtain the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ADP Phase 2 on Pacific Plaza Towers that outline, among others, the requirements that will enable proponents to submit proposals. Real Estate brokers are welcome to sign up as interested proponents, provided that they disclose the name of their clients in their Letters of Intent/Interest to be submitted to BCDA.

The TOR for the sale or lease of BCDA-owned units in Pacific Plaza Towers will be ready for distribution to interested proponents by **11 November 2002** at the BCDA offices.

A conference among interested proponents is tentatively set for 2:00 p.m., **15 November 2002** at the BCDA Office, Old Officers' Clubhouse, Gozar corner Lucas Streets, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City. The objective of the conference is to discuss the properties/units, the TOR and other clarifications from interested proponents/parties. Interested proponents/parties will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to BCDA.

Interested proponents/parties can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP PHASE 2 COMMITTEE (ADP Com-2) -
Pacific Plaza Towers
BCDA Corporate Center
Gozar corner Lucas Streets, Villamor Air Base
Pasay City

or they can contact Ms. Aileen R. Zosa, Ms. Cherrie Jongco or Ms. Bambie L. Andal at telephone numbers **510-0420** or **510-0411** or at arzosa@bcda.gov.ph or bandal@bcda.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) **CHAIRMAN**
ADP Phase 2 Committee

(PDI - Nov. 8, 12 & 18, 2002)

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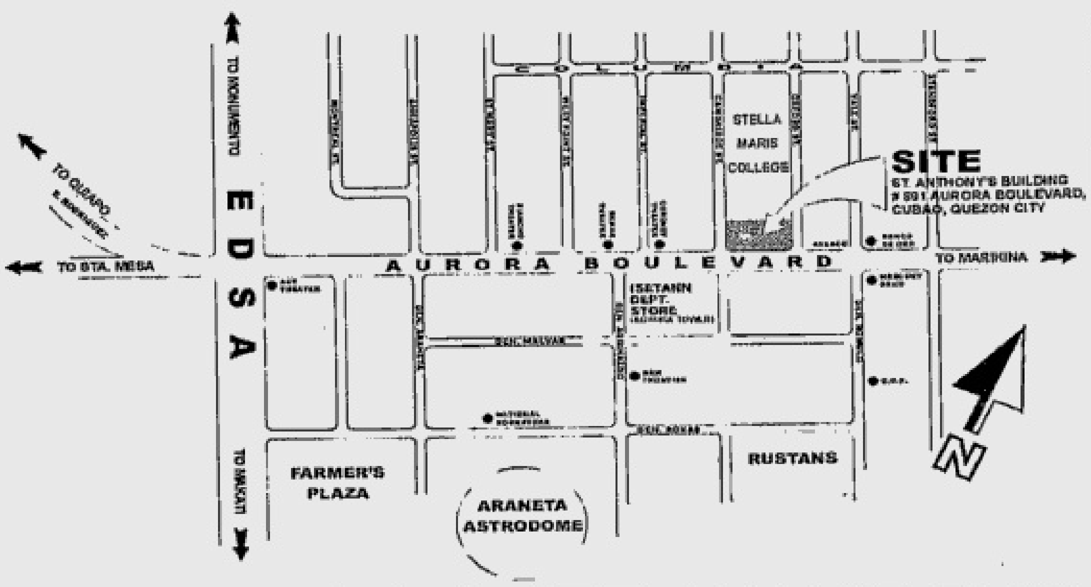

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OBITUARIES

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THE PARTNERS, COUNSELS AND STAFF
of
THE LAW FIRM OF QUIASON MAKALINTAL
BAROT TORRES & IBARRA

Announce with profound sadness
the demise of our beloved

Of Counsel

QUERUBE C. MAKALINTAL

Who died in the Grace of our Lord last November 9, 2002 at the age of 91

We, together with his bereaved family, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sanctuario de San Jose in Greenhills.

Interment will be on Thursday, November 14, 2002 at 2:30 p.m., at the Loyola Memorial Park at Parañaque City, after the necrological services at the Supreme Court which will start with a 9:00 a.m. Mass.

We will be forever grateful for having known you.
You will always be remembered by us.

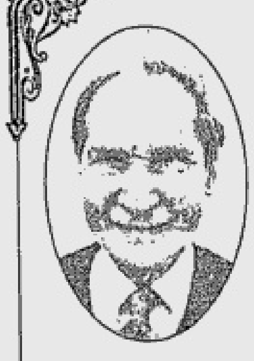
"Truly goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. And, I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."
- Psalms 23:6

ROBERT N. VILLAFLOR

15 June 1935 - November 9, 2002
(Navotas, Metro Manila)

His wife, Mercedita V. Villaflor; children Joselito "Jojo", Leny & Edwin Felizardo, Lalaine & Ronald; grandchildren Miguel, Anjo and Kari request to pray for his peaceful repose.

Interment will be on November 13, 2002 at the Navotas Municipal Cemetery after the 3:00 p.m. mass at San Jose Parish Church, Navotas.



*The **DANCEL** and **VALENCIA** families of Dingas, Ilocos Norte*

entrust to your prayers to the soul of

ATTY. RODOLFO PARADO DANCEL

(RET. COL., JAGS, AFP)

who has peacefully joined his Creator on November 1, 2002 in California, USA

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on November 16, 2002 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

In Loving Memory
on the **Second Death Anniversary**
of

ROBERT "BOBBY" C. LEE

December 23, 1943 - November 13, 2000

His wife and children request relatives, friends and pious readers to include Bobby in their prayers.

Masses will be offered tomorrow at:

Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish .... 6:30 AM
West Triangle, Q.C.
Christ the King Seminary .... 6:30 AM
E. Rodriguez, Q.C.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel .... 6:00 AM
Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, Q.C.
Mary the Queen Parish .... 6:00 AM
Greenhills, San Juan
Monasterio de Sta. Clara .... 6:00 AM
Katipunan Avenue, Q.C.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life". John 3:16

In Loving Memory
on the 10th Death Anniversary of

LT. ROY QUINTIN S. ALCUDIA JR.

Masses offered in the ff. Churches:

Libingan ng Bayani	3:00 PM
St. Michael, Fort Bonifacio	5:30 PM
St. Michael Chaplaincy Global City	6:30 AM
Santuario San Antonio Forbes	12:15 PM
Alimodian Parish, Iloilo	5:30 AM
Guimbal Parish, Iloilo	5:30 AM

Please pray for his eternal repose with our Lord.

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

Matthew 10:39

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
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BEATRIZ CALMA DAÑGILAN

of College, Laguna
January 11, 1935 - November 9, 2002

Peacefully joined our Creator and her beloved son JOHN REY C. DAÑGILAN at the age of 67.

Her loving husband **Verden**; children **Rosemarie D. Pineda, Rene, Irene D. Fornilda, Al, Denden,** and **Seven**; children-in-law and grandchildren; relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, College, Laguna.

Interment is on November 14, 2002, Thursday, after the 9:00 AM Mass at the Los Baños Memorial Garden.

MA. LOURDES C. BALING

Joined her Creator on November 10, 2002 at the age of 44

Her bereaved husband **TOM**; children **JOSHUA, VIEL** and **JONAH**; brother **BOYING**; sisters **CHARITO, APPLE, TINA** and **DITAS**; nephews and nieces; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

Cremation will be on Saturday, November 16, 2002 at Eternal Gardens Memorial Park-Cemetery, Baesa, Caloocan City after the requiem Mass at 8:30 a.m.

PERPETUO M. VIRTUSIO

APRIL 8, 1924 – NOVEMBER 9, 2002

Died in the Grace of our Lord on November 9, 2002 at the age of 78.

His bereaved wife **Beata**; brother **Anastacio**; sister **Tibay**; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at **HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS**, Sucat, Parañaque. Interment will be on Thursday, November 14, 2002 at the **Manila Memorial Park**, Parañaque City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

The family of the late

Ret Maj CECILIO C DALOMIAS, SR

who passed away on November 8, 2002 at the age of 85

Wishes to inform relatives and friends that his body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, EDSA, Guadalupe, Makati City.

His bereaved wife **Soledad (Choleng)** Dalomias; children Jun, Ernie & Julie Escandor and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on November 17, 2002 at Himlayan Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City at 11:00 a.m.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."

Matthew 10:39

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REALESTATE

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

'Nature-based' community reflects 'selective recovery'

By Tessa R. Salazar

CREATE a "nature-based" community with undulating hills that wind through expanses of fairways and occasional views of the Montalban mountain range, hide unsightly electric and phone wires underground, then nestle the whole package on a golf course, and you'll know why Ayala Hillside Estate has a 90 percent take-up rate even during such hard times.

Property giant Ayala Land Inc. describes its sales performance as "phenomenal," with almost the entire first phase of the Ayala Hillside Estate bought within days after being put on the market early October.

Selective recovery

Scrupulous property buyers are making their presence felt on "selective recovery" experienced in the high-end residential sector, said project manager Thomas Mirasol as he refers to the project as serving a "strong pent-up demand for quality residential lots."

Mirasol quoted an ING Barings study earlier this year indicating a selective recovery being experienced in the high-end residential sector. He then said "the performance of the first phase of Ayala Hillside Estates gives credence to it (the study)."

A string of pocket Ayala Hillside Estates communities will be linked by roads (main roads at 17 meters wide, peripherals at 12 meters) that wind through the rolling terrain. Several sub-neighborhoods will be nuzzled among the golf holes, allowing homeowners the luxury of being surrounded by green slopes with many mature trees and expansive views of greenery.

No golf ball 'hits'

The golf course is physically integrated into the residential areas in the master plan, and ALI assures it has worked closely with the golf course designers to make sure there is sufficient distance and privacy between the lots and the golf course.

Though the boundaries between the golf course and the residential areas are intentionally blurred by the design, the chances of residents hit by golf balls are nearly impossible, assured ALI assistant vice president Joel Luna. He added that the golf course—a precision course where accuracy is rewarded—is shorter than the typical golf course.

Should there be any wayward golf shots, safety bars between the holes and the fairways ensure these balls stay in the course, he added.

Lot prices average P11 million, with sizes ranging from 440 to 800 square meters going at P18,000 to P20,000 per sq. m. Ayala Hillside Estates is considered a "triple A" residential subdivision in Capitol Hills, Quezon City, and is near UP Diliman, Miriam College and Ateneo De Manila University.

A contemporary Asian theme—the landscape's design—would be a departure from the standard themes such as the Mediterranean, said Luna.

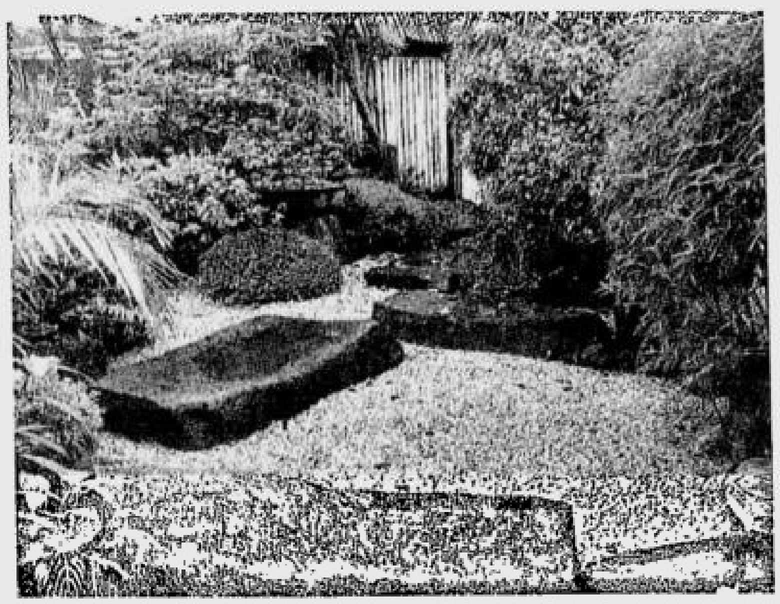
An Ayala Hillside Estates visitor, he said, will catch glimpses of the fairways and experience streetscapes with lush, informal arrangements. A speckle of mature mango and rain trees will be both found in the golf course and the residential area. The heritage trees of the site were also preserved, while some of them were relocated using heavy machinery.

Selling streak

After the successful launch of the Ayala Greenfield Estate in Calamba, Laguna, ALI continues its selling streak with its Ayala Hillside Estate in Capitol Hills as 98 out of the 241 lots have been initially offered.

A news item last month quoted Grace Crisostomo Cerdenia of 2tradeasia.com projecting sales from the project's first phase alone expected to reach P548 million, and total revenues after all lots have been sold to reach P1.35 billion (based on the average lot size of 550 sq. m going at P18,500 per sq. m).

Cerdenia said, "The main story behind the stability of its margins rests on (ALI's) ability to price projects competitively, as well as the savings obtained from reengineering on bulk purchases and product development."


ASIAN contemporary landscaping makes use of foliage and informal arrangements.

CHICHI and Ayala Land exec Mike Hugo make a Hillside ocular inspection of the site.

A scenic spot close to the family roots

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

THE POSH Ayala Heights Subdivision is a stone's throw away from another classy nature community—Ayala Hillside Estates. The proximity of one from the other is one of the reasons many Ayala Heights residents bought a property from the Hillside Estates.

Homemaker Chichi E. Fragada, who is so meticulous with her cozy 800-square-meter house at the Ayala Heights that she considers its upkeep a full-time labor of love, is one of those who bought an P11-million 400-sq.-m lot at the Hillside Estates.

Close to home

Evidently, 11 years of living in the neighborhood and raising five kids here have endeared her to the place. Ayala Heights' rustic ambiance coupled with a panoramic view of the Marikina valley had made her decide that her children should rear their own families here—or as close to home as possible.

And so, Fragada became one of the first buyers of a Hillside Estates lot, a posh "nature community" near Capitol Drive in Quezon City. She was even urged by hubby Joselin to purchase one more lot. Thus, she has another lot reservation at the Hillside's phase 2.

Joselin, chair of the Bank of Commerce, loves to play golf, which may have been another reason the couple wouldn't live in any other place.

A son-in-law architect, a resident of Ayala Alabang Village, also happens to own another property at the more expensive fairway portion of the Hillside Estates.

Aside from proximity, she said the other reason she didn't hesitate to buy lots was Ayala Land's hand in all these developments.

The Fragada couple, incidentally, owns

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Eco-cement anyone?

By Charles E. Buban

WHAT if the materials we use to build homes, offices and other structures could actually solve Earth's global warming problem? An Australia- based company has recently announced a next-generation cement they developed that actually absorbs carbon dioxide (CO_2).

Developed by Australian inventor John Harrison of TecEco Pty. Ltd., his eco-cement was created from a combination of waste materials, predominantly fly ash, with Portland cement and magnesia.

The TecEco eco-cement technology is considered an important breakthrough since it offers partial solutions for global warming, climate change, cost-effective housing for the masses and global waste problems.

The CO_2 together with its concentrations in the atmosphere is a major concern right now since scientists believe if the concentrations of human-made greenhouse gases, particularly the CO_2, continued to increase, the average temperature of the Earth would get warmer and could cause changes in the weather and a rise in sea level that would erode beach regions worldwide.

Compatible

The new building material is based on magnesite that is recyclable, has low energy and low emissions and uses a large proportion of wastes. TecEco has demonstrated that eco-cement is more resistant to attack by sulfates and chlorides and some other aggressive agents.

Eco-cements are entirely compatible with Portland cements and formulations can be as strong or as sustainable as required. The company claimed that if 80 percent of around 1.65 billion tons of Portland cement produced around the world was substituted for eco-cement, there would be a net absorption of 1.5 billion tons of CO_2, with emissions from manufacture taken into consideration.

Portland cement emits around one ton of CO_2 per ton of cement produced. In comparison the company said, eco-cement bricks and blocks were CO_2 neutral, and even an absorber of the gas when they incorporated organically derived waste fiber.

The eco-cement absorbs CO_2 during setting and hardening.

TecEco managing director John Harrison said that like nature, their material uses carbon in it's formulation. "If we do what nature has done for the last 3.8 billion years and use carbon in building and construction, we can beat the global warming problem," he said in one of his earlier interviews.

World's first

The eco-cement technology is a "world's first" and "represents one of the few recent advances in inorganic cements which are suitable for large volume production," according to one of the world's leading materials scientists, Prof. Fred Glasser, from Aberdeen University, Scotland in the UK.

After TecEco won the Tasmanian Innovation of the Year award in Australia, the challenge facing the company is to convince enough people in government and industry that what TecEco has developed is indeed of great importance and that something must be done to address the environment's worsening condition.

Group names housing project partner

SHOWN are Marcelo (seated, second from left), Samakapa chair Alex Jimenez (seated, second from right) and Undersecretary Manny De Castro.

THE FILIPINAS-MAUNLAD Foundation Inc. (Fil-Unlad) and the Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Kalye ng Panghulo (Samakapa) recently signed a contract appointing the former as a partner and originator for the latter's housing project under the government's Community Mortgage Program (CMP) on Oct. 25 at the Panghulo covered court, Barangay Panghulo, Malabon City.

The contract signing was witnessed by Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council secretary general Undersecretary Manny De Castro and the Center for Community Assistance Development executive director Editha Villoria.

The affair, attended by more than 300 officers and members of Samakapa and observers from other barangays in Malabon, was hosted by Barangay Panghulo led by its chair, Ian Borja.

Aside from giving the poor families a land to own, Filipinas-Maunlad Foundation will also provide livelihood opportunities for the family beneficiaries to enable them to continue paying their monthly amortization under CMP. Most of the CMP projects failed because of the nonpayment of beneficiaries of their monthly amortization.

Said Fil-Unlad board chair Flerida Marcelo in her inspirational message: "We are sincere in our efforts in giving poor families in Malabon a chance to redeem their dignity as a person. Not only by giving them land to own but also by providing them the skills and the opportunity to earn a living."

FROM LEFT: Handyman GM Jody Gadia, SVP Robina Gokongwei-Pe, Donate-A-Nail beneficiary Arlyn Dominguez and husband Edmundo, Habitat resource development manager Chris Cenal, Handyman president Willy Co and (back row) Handyman consultant Graham Coates.

Handyman participates in Habitat project

HANDYMAN officials, store managers and staff recently lent their hand in helping build the future home of Arlyn Dominguez, the beneficiary of its "Donate-A-Nail" projects.

The undertaking is part of the home improvement center's support for Habitat for Humanity's "Tulong Mo, Tahanan Ko" program, which aims to provide decent shelters for less privileged families.

CO and Ronaldo Rubi, Handyman operations manager for regional outlets

Beneficiary family

Arlyn works as an electronic data processing assistant at a market research firm. She is married to Edmundo, a part-time waiter, and has three children.

The family is currently staying with the paternal parents and has longed to have its own house. In December, the Dominguez family's wish will finally be fulfilled. Handyman will turn over the house as a Christmas gift to the family before the year ends.

Those who participated in the build activity at Maria Luisa Subdivision in Caloocan included Handyman president Willy Co, general manager Jody Gadia and company personnel. They all took part in the bricklaying, cement mixing and transport of building materials for Arlyn's future home.

Prior to the activity, Handyman endorsed a check for the construction of the house. It was handed over to Habitat officials during the launch of its "Donate-A-Nail" project at the Manila Galleria Suites.

Call for contributions

Aside from the house donation, Handyman likewise encouraged its customers to donate items included in Habitat's wish list during a month-long promo activity. The items—which included woodsaws, hacksaws, chisels, hammers, shovels, screwdrivers, measuring and steel tapes, pliers, nails, paint and steel brushes—were offered at substantial discounts at all its stores.

Meanwhile, people may still make their contributions to Habitat for Humanity's "Tulong Mo, Tahanan Ko" project through the coin banks located inside all Handyman stores.

Handyman is one of the country's fastest-growing home improvement centers with an extensive nationwide network of 32 branches.

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One Legazpi Park, the latest initiative of Ayala Land Inc., is what you have always wanted. Its superb location—in the heart of Makati—underscores its functionality. You can virtually go to any important establishment in no time. Since the residential is found in the center of a business financial district, leading multinational offices are just nearby. You can also easily unwind as classy malls like Greenbelt and Glorietta are just in walking distance.

If you had been hit by the virus or need medical assistance, the country's leading hospital, the Makati Medical Center is just in close proximity. What's more, you can reach schools that offer high-quality education like the Asian Institute of Management, the International School, Don Bosco, Assumption College and Colegio San Agustin in just a matter of minutes.

And because One Legazpi Park is an Ayala Land property, it is expected that the amenities it will offer are world-class. These will include a social hall, swimming pool, daycare center with play area, and a fully equipped gym.

Every occupant also gets a parking space of his own. And to top all of that, the Ayala Property Management Corp. will make sure that the property is always in shape. It will render not only services related to building administration and maintenance but also special technical services even after the property has been sold. This simply translates to a property that will not suffer the same fate of other buildings that look old and beat up after a few years.

Relaxing feeling

The seafoam green dominant color and the sound of cascading water from the water landscape will give a relaxing feeling even before you enter the residential. And when you finally reach your unit—your private kingdom, you will realize that investing in the property is the best decision you have ever made.

All the 366 units of One Legazpi Park are teeming with elegance and luxury. And although Ayala Land will suggest ways to design your unit, you can still improve and transform it into a unit that reflects your personality and suits your needs by putting in carefully chosen appliances.

To enforce the design of your unit, opt for exquisite and functional furniture. Your fancy for technologically advanced gadgets and appliances will show as you choose electronic audio and video components that will fit your lifestyle.

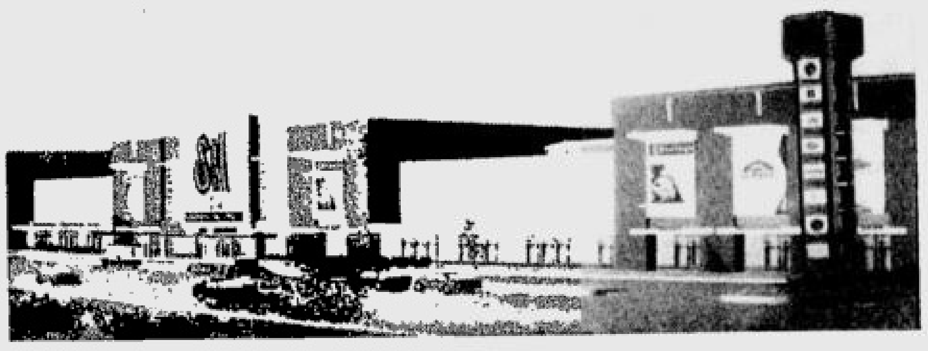
For a classy residential like One Legazpi Park, it is a challenge for you to furnish it with nothing but top-of-the-line appliances. Bose Systems, known around the world for distinctive products par excellence, should be on top of your list when looking for the right appliances.

Space savers

What about a 50-inch Fujitsu Plasmavision TV sitting majestically on a glass table or artistically mocked up on the wall? Although you would think that it is big, this flat-screen TV is only 3 ½ inches thick.

The Bose Music Center is another space-saving appliance that perfectly matches the elegance of your abode. While its height is less than three inches and its width is just 15 ½ inches, the Music Center features an AM/FM stereo tuner. Also packed in this small wonder is a six-disk CD changer that lets you play all the music you need to rid yourself of tension.

If you have a standout home in the middle of the city and state-of-the-art appliances that meet your lifestyle needs and demands, you can finally say, "This is life!"


SM Prime Holdings' 13th supermall

SM City Cagayan de Oro opening slated Friday

SM City Cagayan de Oro will be open to the public on Friday. It is SM Prime Holdings' 13th supermall and its second in the Mindanao region.

Located on a 5.9 hectare-property at the corner of Mastersons and Gran Vila streets in Cagayan de Oro City, it will bring SM's shopping, leisure and entertainment excitement to the Northern Mindanao area.

City of olden friendship

Cagayan de Oro City, the capital of Misamis Oriental, is known as the City of Golden Friendship. It is known for its warm people, rich cultural traction, scenic spots and growing economy.

Residents of this center of commerce, trade, education, health and government services have the highest purchasing power in Mindanao. Residential subdivisions, schools and commercial establishments surround the SM City Cagayan de Oro site.

Already accessible, the city continues to develop its infrastructure, particularly the road network, seaport and airport. Nearby municipalities, on the other hand, are undergoing industrialization by creating industrial parks that ultimately provide new jobs.

SM City Cagayan de Oro has 56,000 square meters in its floor area. It has three levels and 600 parking slots.

Innovative, trendsetting

Residents from the city and nearby provinces can now enjoy shopping at the innovative and trendsetting SM Department Store. With its wide assortment of merchandise at reasonable prices, value-plus pricing, service, and one-stop shopping convenience, it has become part of the lives of many Filipinos.

Must-see outlets at the mall include the SM Supermarket, SM Appliance Center and Surplus Shop. Shopping at SM is, in fact, very much like shopping abroad with foreign stores like US-based ACE Hardware, which is a haven for DIY (Do It Yourself) enthusiasts, and Watsons, the popular Hong Kong-based personal store.

Also great reasons for visiting the mall are the SM Food Court, where one can get good food...fast, and the SM Cinema' s four deluxe state-of-the-art theaters.

Shopping galore

SM City Cagayan de Oro will also have about one hundred shops and restaurants, including shoe stores, fashion boutiques, jewelry stores, sports shops, home furnishing stores, children's shops, and service centers. It also has a row of IT stores—telecom centers, computer stores, business centers and internet cafés.

Eating out is much more fun with local and international fast-food chains like KFC, Pizza Hut, Red Ribbon, Chowking and Jollibee.

SM City Cagayan de Oro was designed by LinearcDesign, architects; Webcore, general contractors; GHT Services, project manager, and Design Associates, the mall designer.

SM City Cagayan de Oro will be one of two SM supermalls that will be opening this year. The other, SM City Bicutan, is scheduled to open on Nov. 29.

VOILA! With five Balinese figurines made of wax, the backlit shelf which serves a feature for the master's bedroom wall becomes the "pièce de résistance." Note the two olive-colored pillows with tassels and jade propped against the white pillows.

The art of styling: Vivant Flats

IT takes just a little creativity, a dash of inspiration and an affordable budget to make instant makeovers at one's flat.

Trousseau, a lifestyle store, demonstrated the art of styling at the Vivant Flats model unit located at Festival Mall, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang.

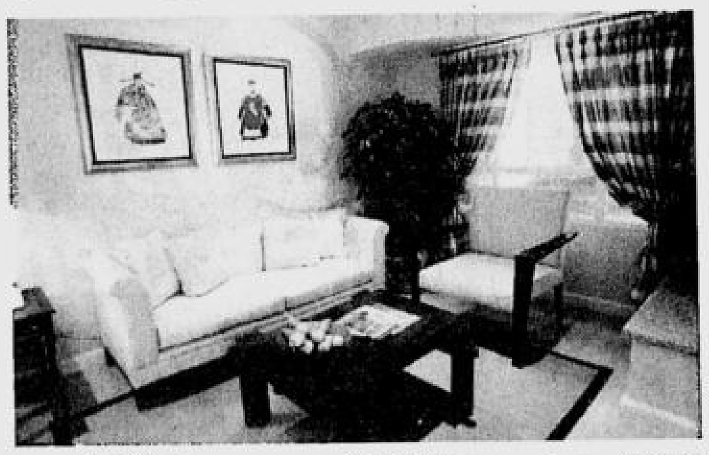
Decorative accents

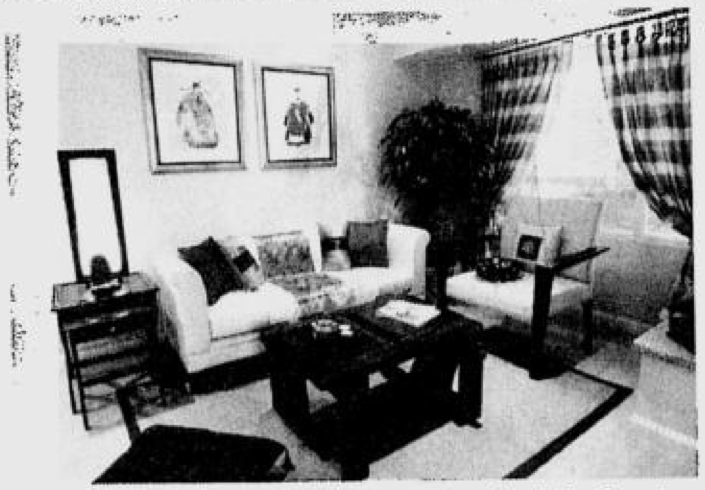
Aya Perez, Trousseau's manager and an interior designer by profession, saw the potential of transforming the ambience of Vivant Flats' living, dining and bedrooms by introducing decorative accents.

Her creative demo started in the living room. The white upholstered sofa was a perfect backdrop on which to prop up Oriental themed silk pillows. With rich colors and prints splashed against a plain white background, the transformation was dramatic and instant.

Nowadays, one can get interesting pillow accents from lifestyle stores such as Trousseau. They work wonders, especially if the aim is to give a couch, an accent chair or even the floor a new design lift.

On the coffee table, Aya made a centerpiece of candles arranged in a bamboo tray. Aside from giving the room a relaxing scent, it created a softly elegant touch to the room.


BEFORE: Pastel accent pillows create a touch of simple elegance against the cream-colored sofa. Coffee table has ethnic touch in accessories.


AFTER: Same sofa, now with a totally new character! Silk and satin Trousseau pillows and a chintz tapestry give the sofa an Oriental makeover to match the gold-gilded frames on the wall.

A FEATURE corner like this is ideal for flashes of creative impulses. A bamboo tray with blocks of scented candles fare well with twin elongated accent pillows with Chinese silk trim and a tassled decorative gold satin pillow.

Taste preferences

Layout and design of fashionable residences such as Vivant Flats take into consideration the taste preferences of the people who will eventually reside in the one-bedroom or two-bedroom options.

Says Aya: "There is a lot of flexibility that a flat owner can work with in this type of arrangement. With nonobtrusive or defined interior design elements, it is easy to do an overnight face-lift. Just see how the living room look assumed a very Oriental theme, just by adding decorative pillows and black bamboo accessories. Months from now, when the 'lady of the house' feels she wants another change, she can do so. A modern contemporary look can replace the Oriental motif, once again, with simple accessorization."

In the dining area, Aya did an elegant setting, relying on beautiful china and silverware to serve as accents. "Since the dining area has a design relationship with the living room, the table-setting theme should be done in synergy with the living room's motif," adds Aya.

On to the bedroom, Aya discovered so many design opportunities. On the headboard, a shelf provides a place to put plants, artifacts or a collection of photo frames. "Any thing you already have stored away may become useful when doing some creative decorating," suggests Aya.

Modern-day standard

Vivant Flats is designed for newly weds, empty nesters or career executives as a modern-day standard of living with elements of style, function and form.

The contemporary resident will appreciate the amenities provided for in the 22-story residential complex. Its prime location within Filinvest Corporate City allows residents to access the many dining, shopping and recreational facilities that abound in Alabang.

Fully furnished model units are available at Festival Mall for those who wish to do an ocular inspection, arrangements can be done by calling 809-6517 to 22.

Leisure Farms makes farming a breeze

LANDCO Pacific Corp. turns farming into a leisurely hobby with its latest project, Leisure Farms—the first hobby farming and agrotourism development in the country and the only farm development in Metro Tagaytay.

A 116-hectare development, Leisure Farms features residential farmlots divided into 1,000-1,500 square meters over rolling terrain of porous, abundant soil.

Farming as hobby

Leisure Farms allows city dwellers and resident farmers to enjoy farming as a hobby through the farm management services.

Among the services covered are the daily management and maintenance of farm lots, careful monitoring of farms and the effective management of agricultural resources and technology, with such features as contract growing, the supply depot, technical support and access to the Demo Farms.

Pool of farm experts

Says Leisure Farms' marketing manager Mylene Mendoza: "Farming can be very technical and tricky. We have a pool of farm experts who will be available to provide advice and assistance regarding our clients' farming concerns such as laying out the farm lot and formulating the crop mix."

Our Demo Farms is a model farm where farm owners can observe agricultural management and modern farming techniques, says Leisure Farms' business development manager Diana Malonzo. "They will learn new, safe, organic methods and other new technologies and skills that Landco will be introducing to the community," she adds.

Featuring the best in agriculture without the hassle, Leisure Farms is the first in the country to introduce the luxury of farming.

A scenic spot. . .

From page B9

several condominium units and another property in Quezon City. The couple, however, is considered "empty nesters" as all but one of their children have started their own families, and all of them live in their own houses (in Davao, Quezon City and in Alabang, Muntinlupa).

Most days of the week, only the Fragada couple and their household help live in the house. In the weekends, the children and grandchildren would pay a visit.

This scenario has made the couple ponder on whether to move to a smaller "empty nest" to make managing the house easier.

Though the Hillside lot Chichi bought is only half of her Ayala Heights lot, Chichi wants the house to be built here to have all the amenities of a luxurious home, yet be "easier to maintain" than her original house.

CHICHI at her Ayala Heights home

Problems

"I want a not-too-small house with all the high-end conveniences," she said. Easier said than done. The main problem she's facing is how to fit all her stuff back home into this smaller house. "Everything in the house was made to order for our needs. But it is a decision both of us (would be making) if we decide to move out."

Then, if they decide to move out, another problem arises: what to do with the original house. "Who is going to live here? If I sell it, *nakakapanghinayang naman.*"

A house without anyone living in it depreciates in value, she said. She considers renting it out to other families.

What if a TV network rented it for their location shoots for, say, a soap opera series? She exclaimed she wouldn't want it because the setup would be chaotic. (Imagine the final episodes require the house to be "burned to the ground." Perish the thought, and the deal.)

One thing is certain now. Chichi and Joselin won't be going anywhere far from this place they've called home for so many years anytime soon.

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

BUSINESS

Ayala cuts bid price for Fort Boni lot

By Doris C. Dumlao

AYALA Land Inc. and United Laboratories Inc.'s Jose Campos have offered to buy a 50.4-percent stake in Bonifacio Land Corp. for only $90 million, not $105 million as earlier reported.

Persons familiar with the situation said Metro Pacific Corp. chair Manuel Pangilinan met on Sunday with First Pacific Co. Ltd. executive Ed Tortoricci in Hong Kong to discuss a debt refinancing deal involving Bonifacio Land.

Metro Pacific, First Pacific's Philippine flagship firm, is Bonifacio Land's parent firm. Bonifacio Land is lead developer of the Fort Bonifacio Global City, a 150-hectare commercial area straddling the Makati financial district.

Ayala Land and Campos were earlier reported to be preparing an offer to settle a $105-million loan extended by First Pacific's offshore unit, Larouge BV, to Metro Pacific in exchange for a 50.4-percent stake in Bonifacio Land.

The loan was part of an aborted deal between First Pacific and retail tycoon John Gokongwei Jr.

Gokongwei and First Pacific agreed in June to form a joint venture that would have held Metro Pacific's 50.4-percent stake in Bonifacio Land.

Had the deal pushed through, the joint venture would have assumed a $105-million debt that Metro Pacific owed Larouge.

After First Pacific and Gokongwei decided to cancel their deal, Ayala Land and Campos came into the picture.

Sources said Pangilinan apprised Tortorrici, whom First Pacific assigned to help manage Metro Pacific's corporate restructuring following the resignation of former Metro Pacific president Ricardo Pascua, of the latest developments involving the Fort Bonifacio deal.

The deal with the Ayala-Campos group, however, is still hanging because of the lower price being quoted, one source told the INQUIRER.

David Nugent, Metro Pacific group vice president and spokesperson, declined to comment on the reported amount that the Ayala-Campos group was willing to pay.

Ayala Land net up 4%

AYALA Land Inc. posted a 4-percent rise in its net profit in the first nine months of the year on good revenues from its mall operations.

The country's largest land developer posted a net profit of P1.62 billion on revenues of P8.14 billion during the period, close to a third of which came from leasing operations from its malls.

Its net income for January to September last year was at P1.55 billion.

Analysts expected the company's profits to improve slightly for the nine-month period to P1.667 billion, as rental revenues got a boost from the opening of a new mall in Makati.

But they did not expect dramatic growth this year.

It's like driving a Ferrari the Autobahn.

When the Internet started as a simple network of computers used mainly by scientists, researchers and academics, no one predicted it would turn into a new global medium. The World Wide Web, the most-often accessed part of the Internet, has sites that equal (sometimes, exceed) the broadcast media in terms of production values and visual style, while the contents rival that of found in print.

Plug-ins such as Flash, Shockwave, RealAudio, among others heighten the Internet experience. No wonder everyday, millions of people jump into the so-called Information Superhighway a.k.a the Infobahn, to access things like up-to-the-second news to episode guides of their favorite TV series, walkthroughs of their favorite computer games to more esoteric stuff like Alyssa Milano movie trailers, proof of alien life photos and Styx lyrics. With such a wealth of information available, it's not surprising that this virtual freeway will be jammed. Since, like its real life counterpart, the more users, the more congested it will be. Also, the more flash (pun intended), the heavier the website will be. Which means, if your hook-up to the Web isn't optimal, downloading the site on your PC can be as fun as watching paint dry. In other words, ordinary dial-up connections just don't cut it anymore.

Speed through the infobahn

This is where a PLDT myDSL connection comes in handy. Imagine waiting for 6 hours downloading that rare Pearl Jam audition MP3 using your dial-up, when your sister picks up the phone to use it. Unfortunately for you, murder is still a crime. But if you have myDSL, not only you can download MP3s in a breeze, you can also chat while doing so. All while your little sister is talking on the phone with her friend about her supposedly Josh Hartnett-looking crush. However, with the unlimited time and dedicated time you have online, your brother (or son) will have a difficult time going back to the real world after spending days and nights in virtual worlds like EverQuest or battle.net. W , you don't need to insta tem to get a dedicated c It uses the copper wires your telephone. DSL technolo Subscriber Line) carries data a iency than voice or fax calls, simultaneously be carried in one sn't interfere with other telepho Caller ID or call waiting. And ble-based systems (essentially work where the connection to shared), it doesn't fall in perfo more subscribers connect and d security problems arising from p ffing.

You'll be hook

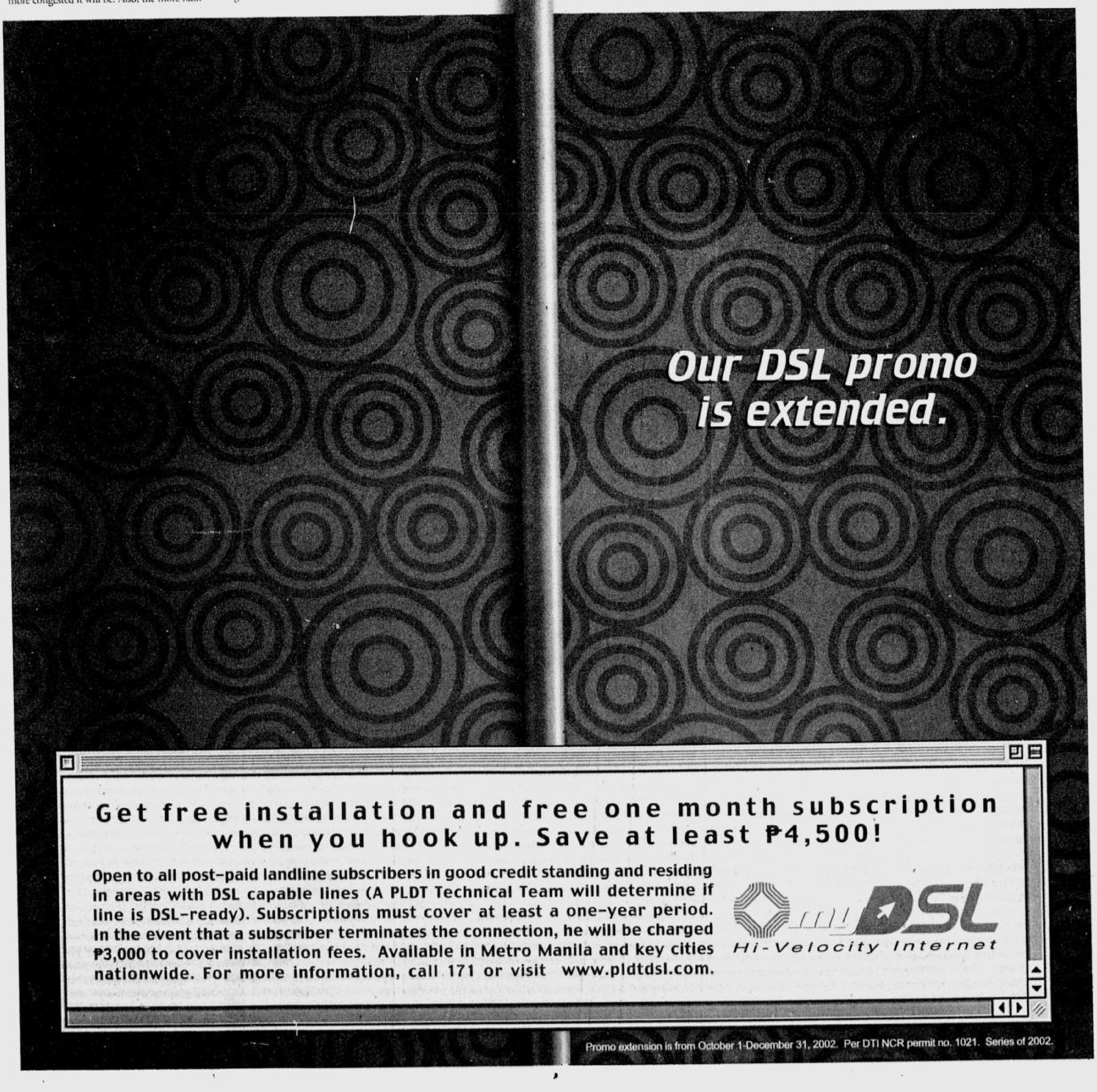
So if you have myDSL connection, there's no stoppi m hosting your own website. If you h ganization in school or the communi n play your school's victory song ming and video audio(skipping so 90's). You can immortalize the Mr. Roboto dance number you did in your last reunion in Quicktime video, and upload it in your family's website for everybody's enjoyment. You can also put your library of self-composed MP3s and just hope somebody will download it.

More time to do other things

Since you can surf and call at the same time, you'll shave off hours and surely be spending more time on the Web, not because of the waiting, but because you'll be zipping to and fro inside the digital realm using multiple windows. You can discover more of those obscure websites (or host one using your PC!), as you lose yourself in cyberspace, since there's no time limit, no roadblocks, just a free, unhindered and high-velocity ride in the techie version of the Autobahn. So whatever your business in the Net, it's done in a snap. Which means, you can spend more time with your family and yourself. Ultimately, you'll be living a better, more enriched life, courtesy of PLDT myDSL.

Get PLDT myDSL and save at least P4,500!

With that said, there is no reason for you and your family not to hook up with PLDT myDSL. PLDT's extended offer of free installation and free one-month subscription is too juicy to pass up. That's an easy P4,500 savings at least. All you have to do is be a PLDT post-paid landline subscriber living in a DSL-capable area (a PLDT Tech team will visit your home and determine if your line is DSL-ready). Definitely, it's the best time to connect to the country's premier high-velocity residential broadband internet service - PLDT myDSL. For more info, check out the details below.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Open to all post-paid landline subscribers in good credit standing and residing in areas with DSL capable lines (A PLDT Technical Team will determine if line is DSL-ready). Subscriptions must cover at least a one-year period. In the event that a subscriber terminates the connection, he will be charged ₱3,000 to cover installation fees. Available in Metro Manila and key cities nationwide. For more information, call 171 or visit www.pldtdsl.com.

myDSL Hi-Velocity Internet

Promo extension is from October 1-December 31, 2002. Per DTI NCR permit no. 1021. Series of 2002.

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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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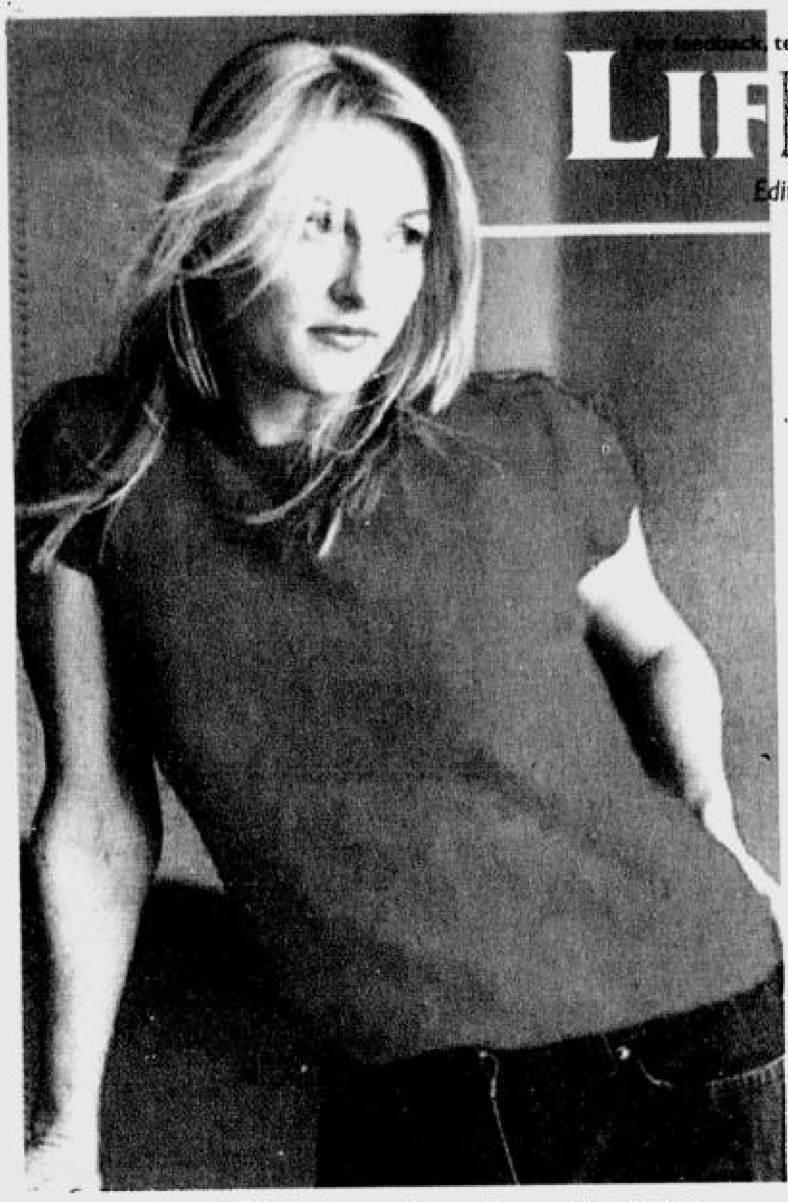
Beauty bonding

By Kitty Go
Contributor



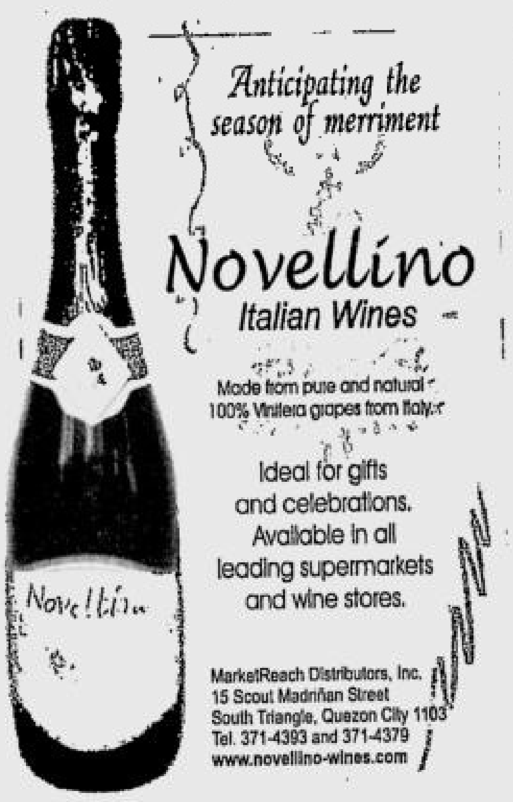
NEW York-based Kristin Petrovich and her mother Karen believe they have formulated the "ideal" skin creams in Kura and Cela Intuitif, combining Eastern and Western philosophies, medical technology and ancient herbal recipes.

IT is not uncommon to find cosmetics labels founded and run by women, not only because women supposedly know what other women want, but also because many of them were started by women who empowered themselves long before the word even made it into the dictionary.

Think Estee Lauder, Helena Rubenstein and Elizabeth Arden, all archrivals behind and beyond the counter. Today, instead of European émigrés, female make-up artists Stila (Jeannine Lobel), Lorac (Carol Shaw), Bobbie Brown, Trish McEvoy, Laura

BEAUTY/ p.C2

Mothers and daughters have always shared beauty regimens, make-up tips, so why not turn that shared knowledge into a business?



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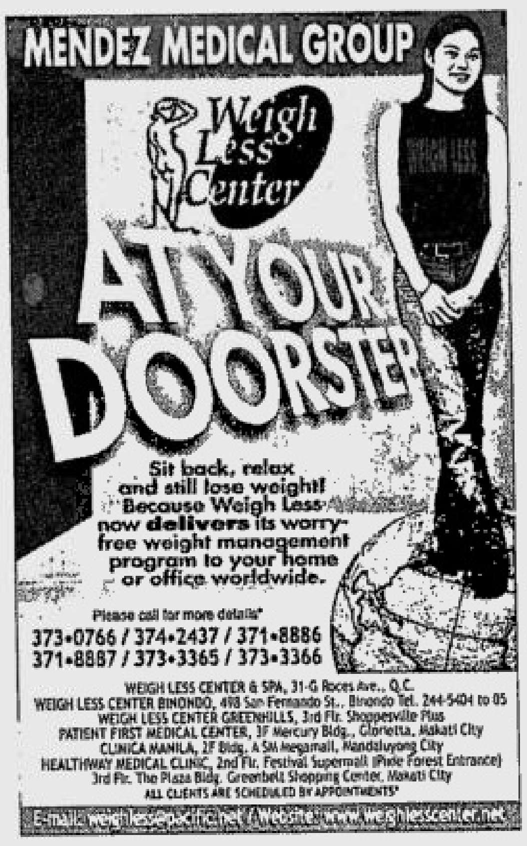

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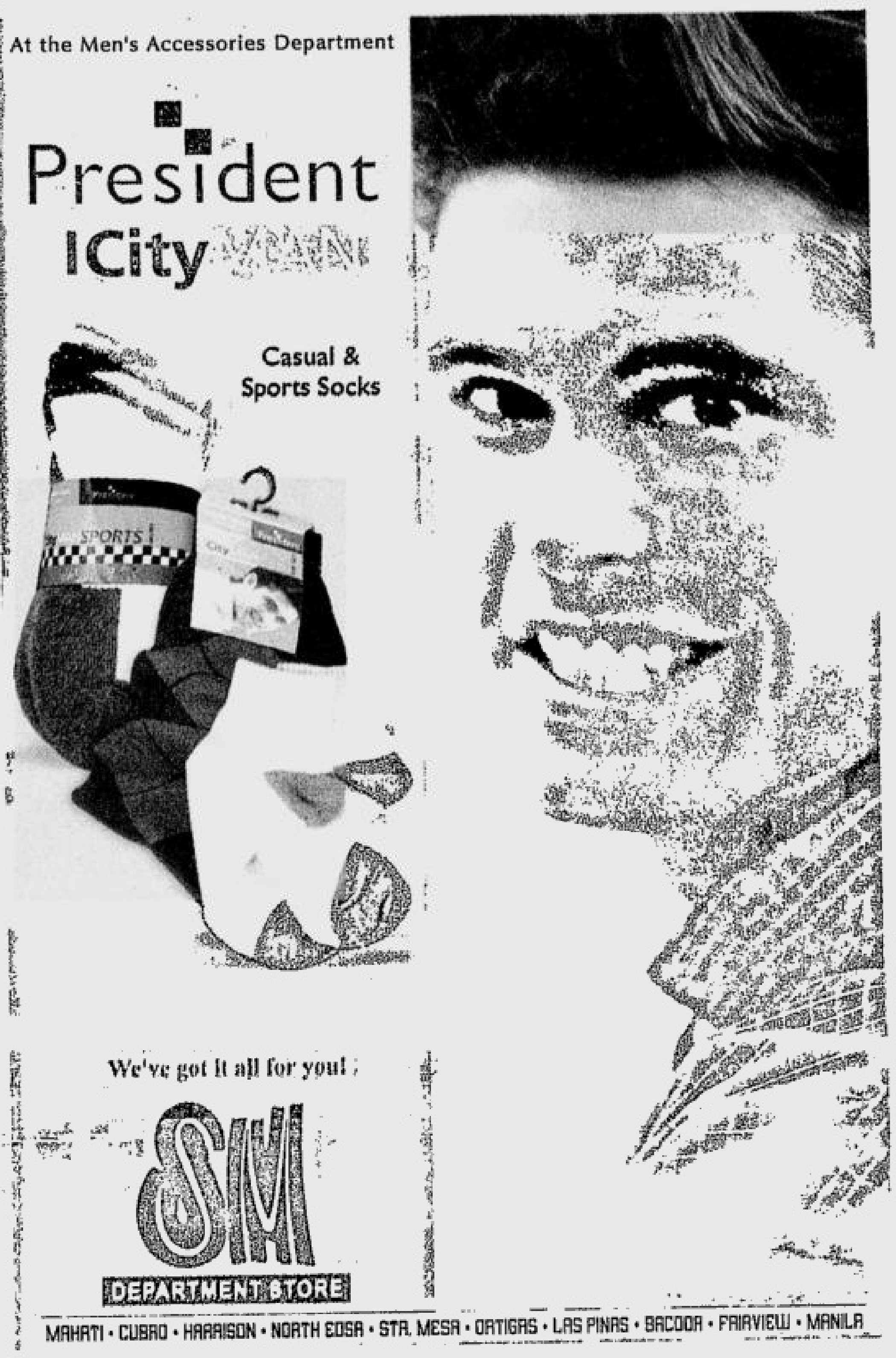

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FAQs (frequently asked questions)

We currently outsource pre-employment examination services with a clinic. Now that we have signed a corporate program with MEDICard, is it possible to get this service at an accredited clinic?

Yes, MEDICard also offers pre-employment (PE) examination services at its Head Office Clinic in Makati City. It is usual for this examination to be on a *"fee for service basis"* and is at a discounted rate. A number of corporate accounts include this benefit into their program. In which case, if the person sent for PE is hired and enrolled in MEDICard, we shall reimburse them of the amount paid for the service. The PE exam shall now also serve as his Annual Physical Examination for the year.

Meet your MEDICard Team

When seeking for services of an Ophthalmologist in Medical City General Hospital (MCGH), look for **Dr. Victor L. Caparas**. Doc Caparas, as he is frequently referred to has more than 15 years of clinical experience in his field of specialization. He has been part of MEDICard's medical service team since 1992. Doc Victor finished Medicine at the University of the Philippines, and took his residency training for his specialization at UP-Philippine General Hospital. He also took residency training for his subspecialization in illnesses of the cornea and external eye and cataracts at the Harvard Medical School. For your consultation needs, visit Dr. Caparas at Room 601 of the Medico Building from 8 AM to 2 PM every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

After earning his degree in Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas, **Dr. Rafael T. Perlas** chose to specialize in the treatment of afflictions of the Eye, Ears, Nose and Throat (EENT), where he finished his residency training at the UST hospital. Doc Rafael started his career in Medicine 18 years ago and joined MEDICard's roster of medical providers way back in 1992. He spends most of his off-clinic hours with his wife and their four children but also takes time to enjoy his hobbies, fishing and target shooting. You may visit him for consultations at his clinic, Suite 2006 of the UST Hospital from Mondays to Fridays, 2:30 to 4 in the afternoon.

Dr. Bienvenido R. Tamano has been a MEDICard accredited specialist since 1994. He is the Medical Coordinator of Tagaytay Family Clinic (formerly Tamano Primary Medical Clinic) in St. Gabriel Village, Tolentino East, Tagaytay City. "Doc", as he is addressed by his patients finished Medicine at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila and specializes in Family and Occupational Medicine. He has with him more than 11 years of clinical experience. Dr. Tamano is also the current Vice-President for the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians-Cavite Chapter. He is finishing this school year his Masters Degree in Public Health, Major in Hospital Administration at the Adventist University. Look for Dr. Tamano for all your medical requirements at the Tagaytay Family Clinic

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at maury@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

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Bandera NG ATING BAYAN

PHOTO CONTEST

Photograph the Philippine Flag and get a chance to win!
See story below for details

Open to all amateur and professional photographers

What's at stake
- First Prize P50,000
- Second Prize P20,000
- Third Prize P10,000

BANDERA NG ATING BAYAN PHOTO CONTEST Mechanics: Here's what you should know!

1. The theme of the BANDERA NG ATING BAYAN PHOTO CONTEST is the Philippine flag. Contestants should photograph the Philippine Flag in a unique or dramatic situation.

2. Submit photo entry in 8R format (8" x 10"), either black & white or full color, original and not previously published in any form of print media. Each entry must include the corresponding negative or transparency

3. Contestants are required to fill out the official application form found in the tabloid, BANDERA, with their name, address, signature, contact number and attach three (3) clippings of the new BANDERA masthead.

4. Photocopies of the application form or the masthead will not be accepted.

5. Send entries to:
ANG BANDERA NG ATING BAYAN PHOTO CONTEST
c/o The Marketing Department
Inquirer Publications, Inc.
Yague St. Corner Chino Roces Avenue
Makati City 1205

6. Contestants may submit as many photo entries as they want, provided that each photo entry is accompanied by one (1) official application form and three (3) BANDERA mastheads.

7. PRIZES:
Prizes are as follows:
1st prize - P50,000; 2nd prize - P20,000
3rd prize - P10,000, and five (5) consolation prizes of P2,000 each.

8. A contestant may win only once. Should one contestant win more than once, He/She will get the prize of higher value.

9. CRITERIA:
Composition: 30%
Uniqueness: 20%
Technical: 20%
Overall Impact: 30%

10. BANDERA reserves the right over all submitted photo entries. Entries will not be returned to their respective owners. By entering the contest, each entrant agrees that BANDERA may use his/her name or image for contest promotion

11. Deadline for submission of entries is on 6pm of December 18, 2002. Provincial entries must allow one (1) week for mailing. BANDERA will not be responsible for any lost or delayed entries.

12. A panel of judges will determine winning photos with the presence of a DTI representative on December 20, 2002.

13. The list of winners will be published on the December 23, 2002 issue of BANDERA. Winners will also be notified by registered mail

14. All employees of Inquirer Publications, Inc., and its affiliate companies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the contest.

15. Winners should present winner's notice and two (2) valid IDs when claiming their prize. Prizes may be claimed in the following areas:

METRO MANILA
Inquirer Publications, Inc.
Alliance Building, Yague Street
Makati City

CEBU
Inquirer Publications, Inc
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario Street, Cebu City

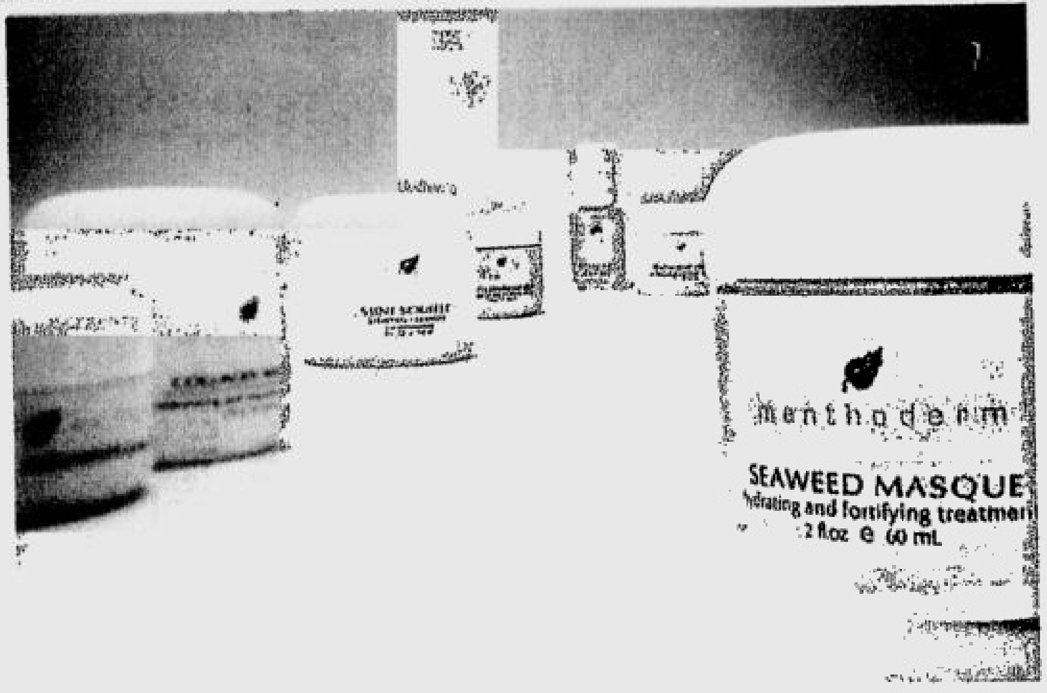
DAVAO
FEP Printing, Barangay Ma-a
Ma-a Road, Davao City

16. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days after receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of Inquirer Publications, Inc. With prior DTI approval. Inquirer Publications will shoulder the 20% prize tax.

Promo period is from Sept. 23 to Dec. 18, 2002

See print ad in BANDERA for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3888, Series of 2002



SKIN in the City: Formulated in the US by European émigré chemists, Menthoderm is a skincare range that addresses the problems of Big City living such as pollution, stress and weather changes.

Beauty bonding

From page C1

Mercier, Ruby and Millie join the already crowded $170 billion cosmetics and toiletries industry.

How can we forget Mary Kay Ash, the Dallas housewife who turned the color of money pink not only for herself but for millions of industrious sales associates?

However, there is another evident trend in the beauty business run by women, and that is mother-daughter teams. Like the idea that women would better know what other women want, mothers and daughters have always shared beauty regimens, makeup tips, and, like the women who got into the beauty business in the first place, sharing cosmetic knowledge and turning the quest for the perfect beauty product into a business is not a bad idea especially if done within the family.

In plants we trust

Skincare is the fastest growing area of the cosmetics business, and one of the newest brands, established by a mother-daughter team (plus two other partners), is **Menthoderm**, originally an exclusive herb-based skincare line created by a European family of chemists in the United States in 1969. Since the company's founding, its formulations had been available professionally until two years ago, when Mary Tong decided to patent the line under the name Menthoderm and retail the products.

Mary's mother, Angela, was an esthetician in Los Angeles who used the line on her clients. Today she runs the business from Los Angeles while Mary oversees the Asian distribution.

Menthoderm can be found at Joyce Hong Kong and will soon be in exclusive stores in the United States and China. Formulated for "polluted-city use," the Menthoderm school of thought begins with the belief in clean skin. Without clean skin, no product, no matter how expensive, will work.

"Having wandered long enough in the 'jungle' of skincare," related Mary, "I know for a fact that healthy skin should be a condition that radiates from within, to be achieved through deep-pore cleansing. When pores are unclogged, the natural elasticity of the skin resurfaces and, in due course, cells are then rejuvenated and hydration restored."

The extensive Menthoderm line has 44 facial and 10 bodycare products. There are 12 cleansers and eight masks in the facial line.

Mary defends the diversity of product line, saying that everyone is different and every skincare regimen is individually tailored not only to basic concerns like skin type and lifestyle but also weather changes, travel, stress levels, medical conditions and even budget. In fact, Menthoderm prides itself in being competitively priced, from $25 for an astringent or eye makeup remover to about $80 for their famous serums.

To complement the line, the company opened a skin nursery [12/F, 4-6 On Lan Street, Central, Hong Kong; ph (852)2147-3298] this year, focusing on (but not limited to) facials. Editors of the bestselling Chinese fashion bible, "Jessica," swear by the facials.

Manager Sophia Wong recommends the 1 ½ hours of blending facial for first-time clients, as it is an individualized European regimen and also includes a foot and hand massage. After a facial, clients are served hot almond grain tea and, after a massage, cold lemonade.

Quest for perfect moisturizer

These uncertain economic times find consumers saving on big ticket purchases but, surprisingly, not on face creams costing easily over $100 that promise a flawless complexion. Nourishing creams from companies such as Cle de Peau, Crème de la Mer, Kanebo and even Estee Lauder cost practically the same as a handbag and promise users a complexion softer and smoother than lambskin.

A relative newcomer into the cosmetics business is **Sjal**, established in 1998 by the mother-daughter team of Karen and Kristin Petrovich. To love Sjal is to use it and understand the process behind what Kristin calls the "ideal" all-in-one treatment designed to nourish, treat and repair skin.

Sjal is a three-product skincare line of two face creams (about $230 each) and an eye cream called Orbe (about $150) that boasts of the use of hexapeptides for de-stressing and relaxing muscles, and germanium (not geranium), a mineral that brings oxygen to cells.

Cela (French for "cell") Intuitif is a lightweight cream recommended for daytime use that contains green tea, macadamia oil, algae, licorice and natural acids from wintergreen, sugar cane and fruits—ingredients that form an integral part of the cream formulated to fight the damaging effects of photo-aging by promoting cell renewal.

Kura (Czech for "skin") Intuitif is a nourishing cream recommended for nighttime use to aid and repair dry or damaged skin. Some of the ingredients are botanical like mulberry, arnica, horseradish, anise and ginseng, natural lotus oil from India harvested in the spring, shea butter and mango butter.

Both creams are called "intuitif" because Kristin and Karen want people to use them "intuitively" whether alone, thinly or thickly applied, or together, depending on their needs.

Both face creams contain squalene, pearl powder, silver and copper, which are natural anti-bacterial minerals used for healing wounds; SOD, the most powerful anti-oxidant in the market; and peptide complex, which surpasses Vitamin C in performance.

Aside from traveling for years and studying aromatherapy, Tibetan, Ayurvedic and Chinese medicines, Karen and Kristin consulted with biologists, herbalists, nutritionists and even psychics who helped them create a progressive line using the finest ingredients combined with the ancient and the latest sciences from East and West—certainly an honest-to-goodness global product.

Upon the advice of a psychic, raw sapphires are submerged into the oils used in Cela for purification. Users have testified that improvement in their skin is evident in a month.

A cleanser and maybe a sunscreen with anti-pollutants are in the works. Sjal does not contain sunscreens, as Kristin believes that with sunscreen half of a product would be chemicals and preservatives.

"It's a treatment line, and the most important thing is taking care of your skin," she said.

Sjal is currently sold in major department stores in the US, at Space NK in London, Colette in Paris and Corso Como in Milan. In Asia, it is at Joyce Hong Kong and soon will be in Barney's Tokyo.

American beauty, the French way

For Olivia Chantecaille, one of the advantages of working with her mother Sylvie is that they don't have to call huge board meetings to make decisions concerning their eponymous beauty label.

Chantecaille started as a high-tech makeup line created by Sylvie, a 20-year veteran of the cosmetics industry credited with the success of Prescriptives, the first makeup line positioned as high-tech. The line uses natural, non-animal derivative, botanic formulas blended with green tea, green apple, ginseng, gingko biloba and aloe vera. None of the products are tested on animals.

Chantecaille has a full makeup, skincare and fragrance range, from $21 for a lip pencil to $125 for a makeup palette of eyeshadow and blush. Many swear by the moisturizing benefits of the company's rosewater spray and the three floral fragrances with body products, Wisteria, Frangipane and Tiare, have a faithful following despite almost no advertising.

By far, the most popular line in the Chantecaille range has to be Real Skin foundations. Real Skin gel-cream foundation hardly provides any coverage but leaves the skin with a subtle, almost luminous soft-focus glow. Real Skin compact foundation is an ultra-sheer dual-finish cream-to-powder foundation favored by Galliano and Chloe makeup artist Christian McCulloch.

One of the smoothest stick foundations in the market has to be the long-wearing New Stick, containing aloe vera and rice-bran oil, which can be used as both concealer and foundation.

Chantecaille is also known for its refillable, well-edited eye and cheek palettes. This fall, two limited edition palettes with the romantic names 'Weekend in Paris' and 'Promenade in Prague' (out in December) will surely delight any beauty aficionado.

E-mail the author at kitty@kittygo.com.

Anti-cellulite treatments: Surgery, diet, exercise

Pam's thighs EXPOSED!!!

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

THIS is the last part of the series on anti-cellulite treatments. In the last few weeks, we covered creams, pills and machines. Today, we will look at surgery, diet, exercise.

Surgery

A good and honest plastic or dermatological surgeon will tell you that liposuction cannot treat cellulite. In fact, if not done properly, it can make cellulite look even worse. Cellulite is found in the topmost or superficial layer of fat underneath the skin. Surgeons do liposuction on the second or deep layer of fat. They stay away from the superficial layer because it is full of nerves and blood vessels making the chances of nerve damage and uncontrolled bleeding high.

There are, however, some surgeons who claim to have developed special techniques to specifically treat cellulite. One such technique involves using a V-shaped device to selectively cut the fibrous bands of connective tissue that cause the dimpled appearance.

Another technique not only involves cutting the bands but also injecting the patient's own fat into the dimples to further smoothen out the skin.

These surgical techniques have been done on only a limited number of patients so there are still questions about the long-term results. Critics point out that the fibrous bands eventually grow back and the injected fat is usually reabsorbed by the body.

Diet

While losing weight will help somewhat to reduce the appearance of cellulite by making the fat cells smaller, there is no special diet that will specifically eradicate cellulite. So stay away from advice like, "Don't eat cottage cheese unless you want to have cottage cheese thighs."

Exercise

Aerobic exercise (walking, running, swimming, dancing, etc.) will help to make your fat layer smaller but it won't do much to change the structure of your connective tissue. Resistance exercise (lifting weights, rubber bands, body weight exercise like yoga, etc.) is helpful in slightly improving the appearance of cellulite because a firm leg and buttocks' muscles make the skin smoother and tauter. Two years ago, Dr. Wayne Westcott proved this scientifically.

In his experiment, 16 women, ages 26-66, were put on a 20-minute, three times a week program of aerobic exercise, resistance exercise and stretching for two months. The women lost an average of one inch in their hips. Seventy percent of the women reported much less cellulite on their legs. Ultrasound measurements showed a 1-millimeter reduction of fat in the superficial layer where cellulite is found and a 1-mm increase in the muscle layer, which accounted for the look of smoother firmer thighs.

Being an exercise advocate, I wish I could say that exercise is the solution to all your cellulite woes but, unfortunately, it isn't. I know from experience (my own and that of many clients over the years) that cellulite looks better when the thighs are firm. Just don't expect a major miracle.

You are not alone

If you are a woman with unwanted dimples on your thighs and rear end, you are not alone. Eighty-five percent of post-adolescent women have it. Some of the world's most beautiful women have it. Cindy Crawford admitted on the Oprah Winfrey show that she has cellulite. Joanna Connell, makeup artist on "Baywatch" for nine years, told Good Housekeeping magazine that the actresses on the show needed a "little help" in camouflaging their cellulite with fake tans and body makeup. True enough, pictures of former "Baywatch" babe Pamela Lee Anderson's dimpled thighs have been ungraciously published in tabloids like the National Enquirer. Goldie Hawn, Princess Diana and Morgan Fairchild, among others, have been unlucky enough to have the cellulite on their thighs immortalized forever in print by the paparazzi.

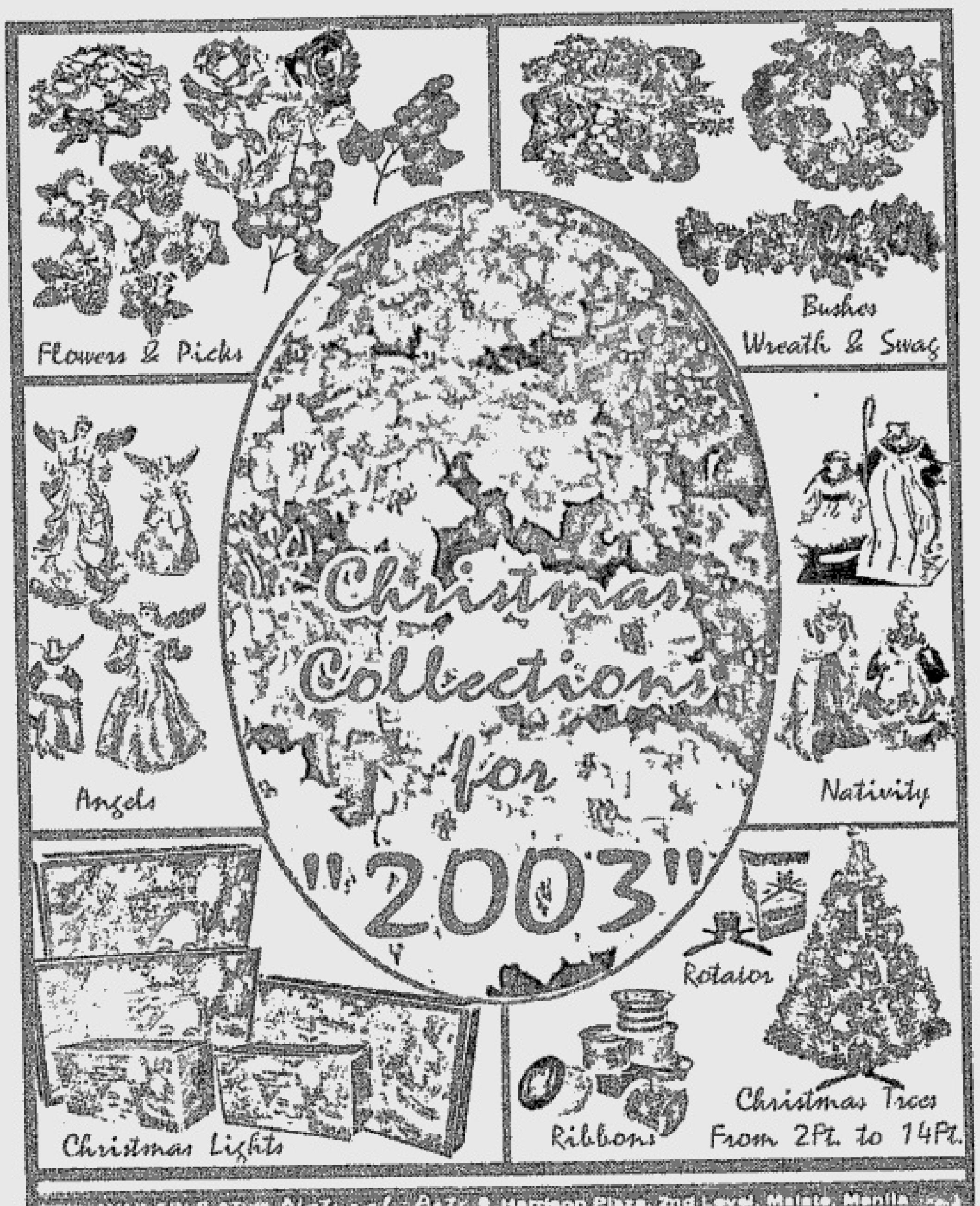
None of the celebrities mentioned above are unfit and overweight. In fact, they are all (or were in the case of Princess Diana) in tip-top physical shape. And yet, they all have cellulite to a certain degree. The reason cellulite is so hard to get rid of is it is an inherited female-specific condition involving an irregular pattern of fibrous connective tissue and fat cells that creates an appearance of dimpled skin. Treating cellulite is akin to dyeing your hair. You can only cover it up temporarily. You cannot permanently change your skin and connective tissue structure or your hair color for that matter. So whatever cellulite treatment you decide to go for, first investigate if it really produces significant results then be prepared to have continuous maintenance treatments to sustain those results.

Last frontier

The final frontier in cellulite treatment is gene therapy. Scientists speculate that since cellulite is an inherited trait and it is specific to females, there is probably a cellulite gene on the X chromosome. Gene therapy would involve replacing that gene so that your body would now be following a different set of instructions to replace old cells in your skin and connective tissue and eventually you would have cellulite-free buttocks and thighs. When will this be available? Not any time soon but

ANTI-CELLULITE/ p.C4

> Eighty-five percent of post-adolescent women have unwanted dimples on their thighs and rear end. Some of the world's most beautiful women have it



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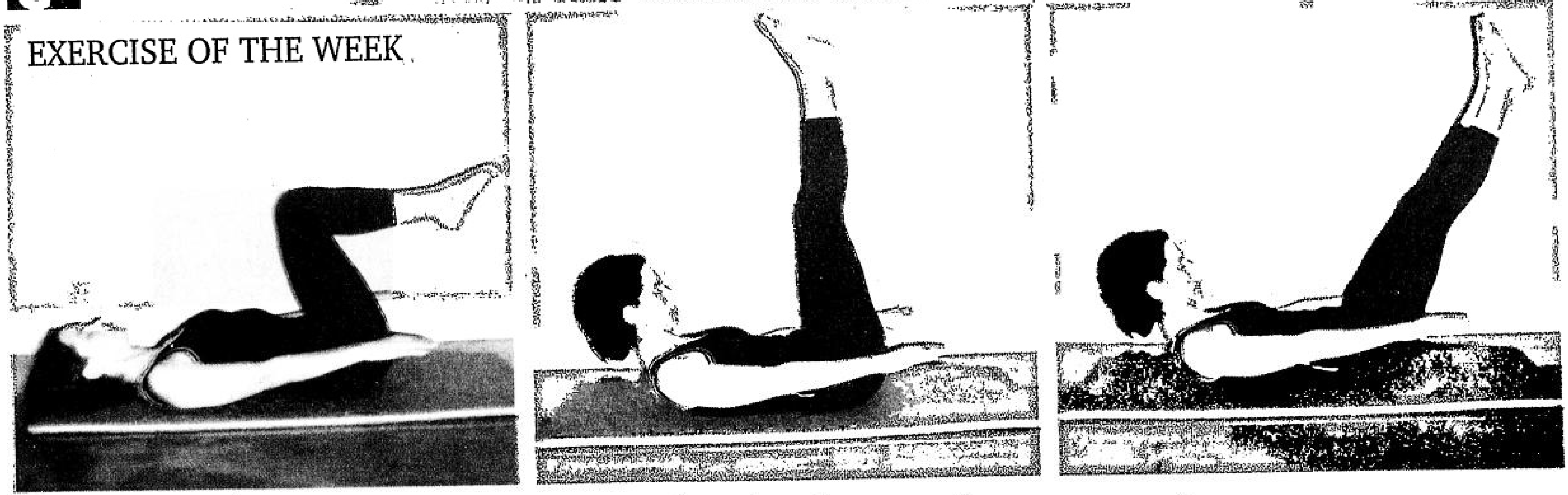
Chowking
Dito kumakain ang masarap kumain.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Abdominal sliding leg series

THIS Pilates-inspired exercise strengthens the abdominal muscles and quadriceps (muscles at the front of thighs). It has four levels of difficulty.

Equipment:
Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

1. The starting position for all the levels of difficulty is lying down on your back with your arms and legs extended straight on the floor. Your arms will be over your head.

2. Level one: Simultaneously bring your arms to the sides of your hips and bend your knees over your hips while keeping your head on the floor. Return to starting position by dropping your bent knees to the floor. As soon as your toes touch the floor, slide your legs straight.

3. Level two: Same as level one except curl your head and shoulders off the floor.

4. Level three: Same as level two except straighten your legs toward the ceiling above your hips.

5. Level four: Same as level three except straighten your legs at a 45-degree angle.

Performance tips:

1. Inhale as you straighten the body on the floor; exhale as you simultaneously move arms and legs.

2. Take care not to arch the lower back when you straighten the body. Keep the abdominal muscles tight so you can keep your lower back steady.

3. Always raise and lower your legs by bending the knees and then straightening them.

Repetitions:
Do 5-10 repetitions of the appropriate level for you.

Anti-cellulite treatments...

From page C3

it will probably be in our lifetime because the potential financial reward is great.

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines will hold its Annual National Fitness Convention on Nov. 23 and 24 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Three international speakers will present seminars on group exercise, personal training and fitness management. Topics will include yoga, Pilates, stability ball training, interval training, squat analysis, how to retain gym members and how to market your gym effectively. For more details, call Ivy Abuel at 850-7647 or text her at (0917) 518-1202.

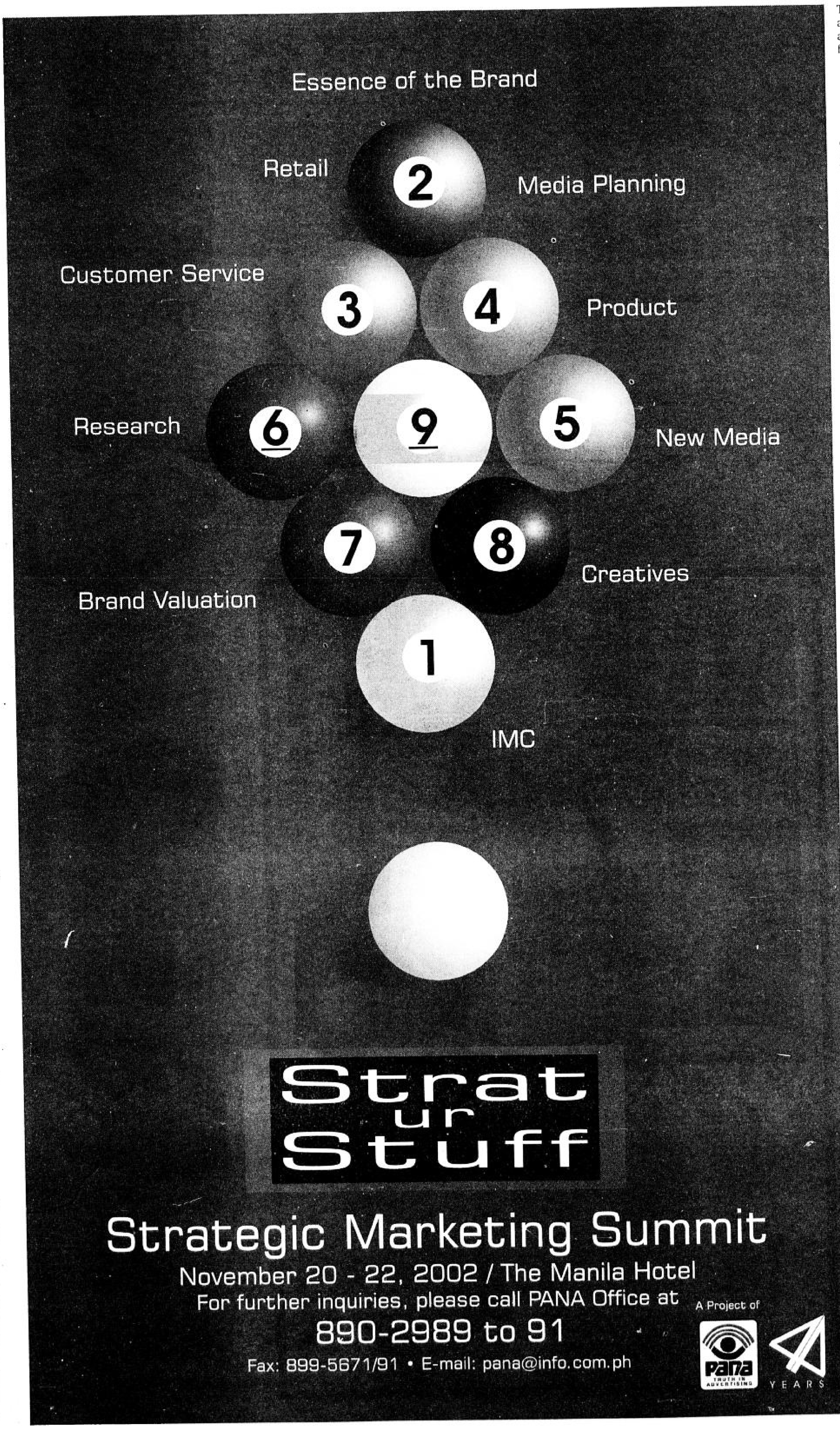
For questions or past articles and exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com.

Haribon holds 10K fun run

THE HARIBON Foundation, in celebration of its 30th anniversary, will hold a 10k fund-raising fun run on Nov. 17, 5:30 a.m., at the University of the Philippines Sunken Garden in Diliman, QC. The event endeavors to generate funds primarily for Bangka't Buhay, an advocacy campaign that aims to heighten awareness on the importance of biodiversity and marine protected areas.

Interested parties may register at any of these centers: Ateneo de Manila University Biology Department, Miriam College Environmental Science Institute, University of the Philippines-Diliman Parish Office, San Beda College EarthLink, Don Bosco Mandaluyong Mountaineering Society, Bratpack (SM City Annex and Robinsons Galleria outlets), True Value (Rockwell and Glorietta outlets), Brews and Browns Café at Sturten Place, 116 Maginhawa St., Teacher's Village, QC; and the Haribon Foundation, 4/L Fil Garcia Tower, 140 Kalayaan Ave., QC. Registration fee is P150 per participant. Donations are also accepted.

Call 920-7420, 434-8239, 436-4363 or visit www.haribon.org.ph.



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YEARS

Secrets of beauty and well-being

Part I

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

THERE is no need to look far for ancient secrets to staying young. Asia is rich with health traditions all striving to achieve bliss. Every human being is like the yin and yang, negative and positive, each half flowing into the other forming a unity of forces.

And so, the challenge to modern civilization with technology moving at breakneck speed is to learn what Asian traditions have been teaching for centuries—relax, detach, center.

In his book "Quantum Healing," author Deepak Chopra states that "the mind and the body are like parallel universes. Anything that happens in the mental universe must leave tracks in the physical one. Indeed, "science has shown that when we are relaxed and happy, the biochemical rhythms in our bodies are significantly different from those present when we are angry, tense or sad." This is from "Asian Secrets of Health, Beauty and Relaxation" by Sophie Benge.

The western notion that "beauty comes from within" has its similarities to a Javanese saying, "*rupasampat wahya bhiantara*"—"the balance between that which is invisible and that which lies within."

Spa experience

The heart of any spa is its tranquility. A spa gives one respite, a retreat from the cares of the world. It lulls the senses, relaxes the body and heals the spirit through massages and treatments.

But if you don't have time to go to a spa, turn a corner of your room into one.

- Your bathroom is the perfect place to start.
- In lieu of a real ocean view, cut out your favorite beach photo. Display it in a prominent place.
- Lush vegetation could be substituted for a potted plant.
- Nature sounds? Get a meditation CD. Or soothing New Age music. Classical? Get Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata," Bach's "Air" or Baroque selections like Packelbel, Albinoni, etc.
- Bath time is a good chance to connect with yourself by pampering your body.
- Add scented candles or aromatheraphy lamps with your favorite oils.

Outer glow

In a tub of hot water, add essential oil mixture (1 tsp almond oil with 1 drop of sandalwood, geranium or ylang-ylang oil) for a passionate, sedative effect.

Bath time blends

Purification-detoxification: Sage, rosemary, ginger oil

Calming: Chamomile, lavender, rose

Brain-boosting: Pine, lemon, grapefruit, mandarin

After a 10-minute soak, inhale a whiff of peppermint oil (1 drop) in 1 tsp of almond oil for an energizing lift.

Papaya body polish: Puree one ripe papaya and skin (no seeds). Generously spread all over your body after the hot soak. Leave on for 7 minutes. Rinse. Papaya contains fruit acids that gently exfoliate the skin leaving your face and body soft.

Traditional Honey-Cucumber Facial: A Thai tradition for calming and tightening the skin

1 c of honey
10 drops lime (or *dayap* juice)
1 medium-sized cucumber, sliced

Clean your face with a warm towel. Mix honey and lime juice together and massage gently (with upward strokes) on your face for 15 minutes. Wipe the honey with a wet warm towel. Pat dry.

Place cucumber on the face and neck. Cover your eyes and mouth if you wish. Leave it on for 7-10 minutes. Rinse with cool water. Finish with a light moisturizer (optional).

Inner glow

Chant your way to calmness. A chant is simply a form of meditating with sound. You may use the universal mantra of "*om*" called the metaphorical sound of the universe. Take a deep breath. Upon exhalation, let your sound and breath come together with *ahh-ooo-mmm*...

The more you chant (without shouting), the better and deeper your meditation will become. Sound stimulates the chakras or energy vortexes that exist in your body.

Others who might find this too exotic may use a different mantra—choose any word like love. If you look good, you will certainly feel good. And you feel good, when you look good.

There are many recipes we can reap from Mother Nature. And if you take the time out to understand the healing and beautifying benefits of fresh preparations straight from your kitchen or garden, you will not hesitate to use them.

But if you cannot be bothered with mixing and concocting recipes, go to your favorite spa.

More beauty rituals (full moon-lit nights and releasing the goddess in you) next week.

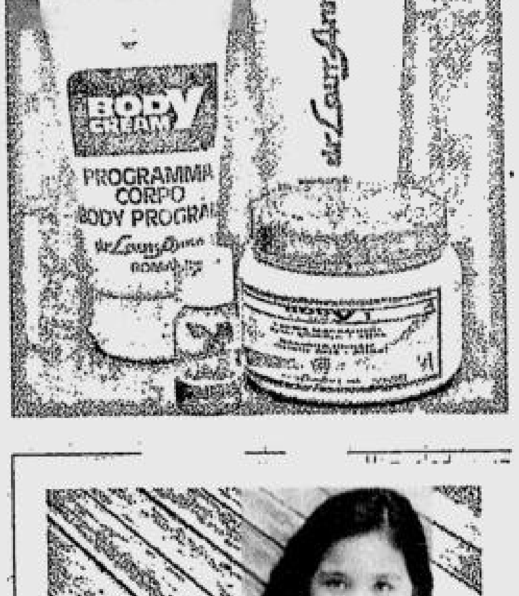
Love and light!

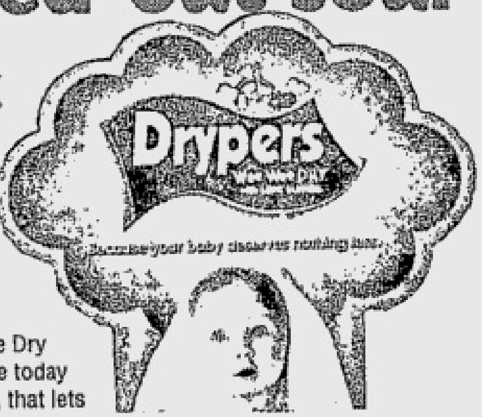
Hand and foot treatments to soothe the stressed-out soul

BUFF Spa, located at SM City Manila, provides executive anti-stress health alternative schemes via application of various levels of hand and foot care. This is for the busy professionals who need relief from stress. The spa offers footcare treatments that ensure 100-percent fungi-free service for people with cracked skin or dry skin. Other offerings include the buff package foot scrub, manicure and pedicure services utilizing a wide array of imported nail polishes.

WEEKLY DOSAGE

DR. Lauranne skincare products promote the skin's well being. The line includes: cold mask; clounet mask, for pimples and acne; elisette, for superficial bleaching; hydronova face mask, for moisturizing and smoothening the face; moonlife lifting effect, for minimizing wrinkles; eternite kit, to even out skin tone; global system, for minimizing visible pores and lightening dark spots; alphaegel, for removing dead skin cells; cellupro, for reducing cellulite sans surgery; tono system, for a firmer body contour; hydronova eye contour, for nourishing the delicate area around the eyes; and body system, for removing dark spots on the body. Dr Lauranne products are available at Allure Skin & Body Center, 884 Banawe St. corner Del Monte Ave., QC (tel. 366-1489); Radiance Facial and Body Care Center, 2/F Nisa Building, 50 Polaris St., Bel -Air Makati (895-8943); and Le Viso Skin and Body Center, 816 Zacateros near corner T. Alonzo St., Sta. Cruz, Manila, (736-1631).


BODY CREAM
PROGRAMMA CORPO
BODY PROGRAM
dr. Lauranne


Drypers
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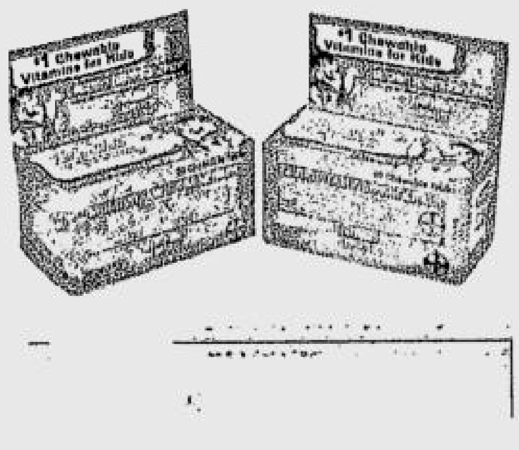
DRYPERS Wee Wee Dry provides breathable diapers that are also super absorbent. Unlike other diapers that use plastic, nonpermeable outer coverings, Drypers Wee Wee Dry are the only diapers available today with unique cloth-like cover, that lets air circulate freely, giving your baby the coolness he deserves. An extra-absorbent core also keeps baby drier longer (stopping diaper rash, and frequent nightly changes), plus dry-lock leak guards that really work, hugging baby's legs comfortably to stop spillage.

extraderm
MOISTURIZING CREAM

SKIN loses moisture every day, no thanks to such factors as air conditioning and direct exposure to the sun's harmful UV light rays. This goes for everyone, even those with oily skin. So you need a moisturizer like Extraderm Moisturizing Cream, which is formulated to replenish lost skin moisture, providing a protective film of nutrients to keep dryness and dirt out. Regular use will also give you softer, smoother and younger-looking skin. Extraderm Moisturizing Cream also comes with sunblock for added protection.

FLINTSTONES has launched its latest variant, Flintstones Complete, which is the most complete multivitamin and mineral formula in chewable form. It contains 12 vitamins and seven minerals essential to the growth and development of children aged 11-13. It comes in six flavors and seven shapes that kids will enjoy. Other variants include Flintstones Starter, for kids 3-6 years old, in bottles of 30s and 60s and Flintstones Plus Iron, for kids 7-10, in bottles of 30s and 60s. Call the Kid's Nutrition Advisory Hotline at 450-3635/3605.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#1 Chewable Vitamins for Kids

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• Singapore Discovery Centre
• Tea at Raffles Hotel
• Gloria Jean's Tea-&-Tour at CHIJMES
• Shopping at Funan The IT Mall (Shopping vouchers for the first 100 early birds only)
In Singapore, the weeks between 2 November 2002 and 15 February 2003 are the year's most colourful. It's a huge experience of events, lights, tastes and irresistible shopping. And the best part is, every visitor gets ₱6,800 (SGD240) worth of dining, shopping and sightseeing vouchers for the trip! Ask your travel agent for details.
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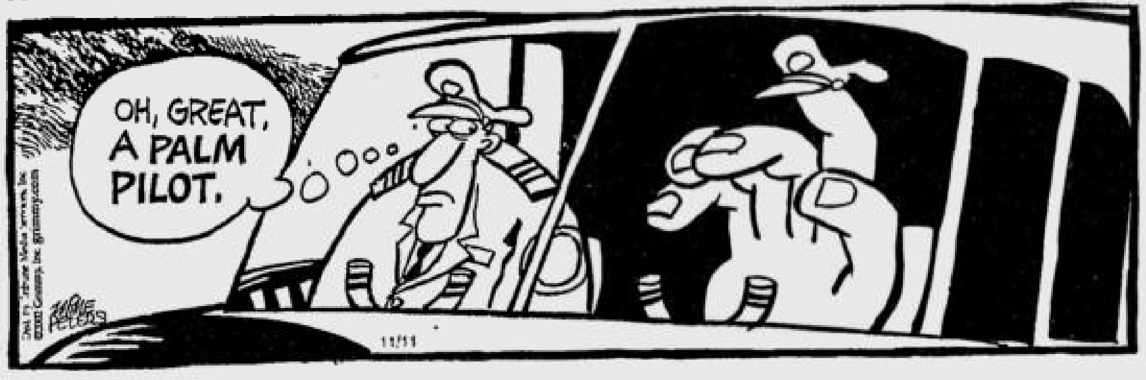
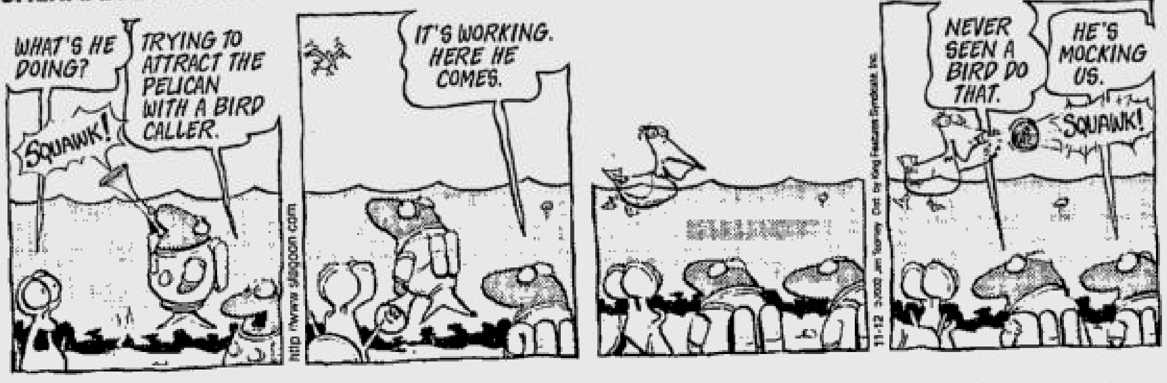
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


OH, GREAT, A PALM PILOT.
MIKE PETERS
11/11

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHAT'S HE DOING?
TRYING TO ATTRACT THE PELICAN WITH A BIRD CALLER.
SQUAWK!
IT'S WORKING. HERE HE COMES.
NEVER SEEN A BIRD DO THAT.
HE'S MOCKING US.
SQUAWK!
http://www.slagoon.com
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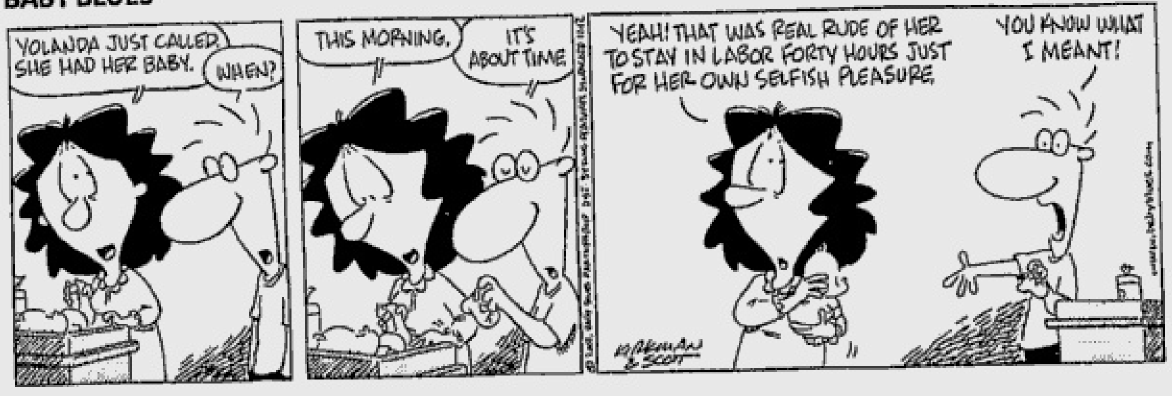
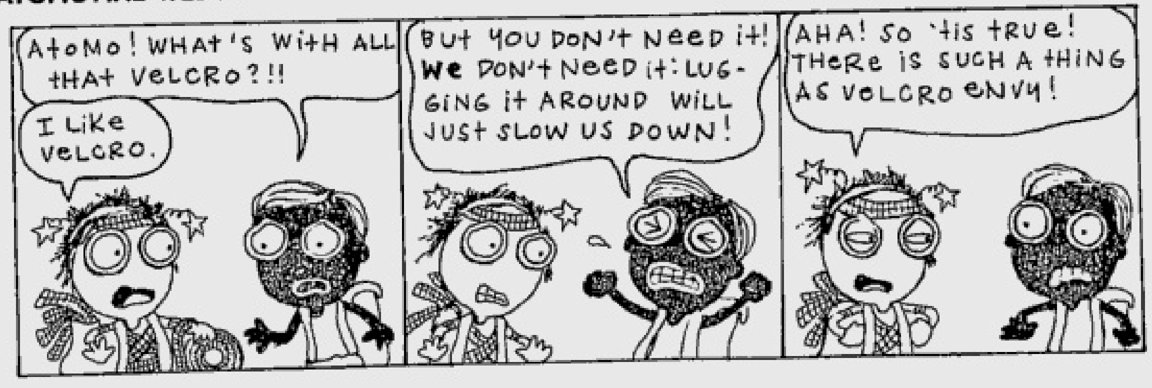
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YOLANDA JUST CALLED. SHE HAD HER BABY.
WHEN?
THIS MORNING.
IT'S ABOUT TIME.
YEAH! THAT WAS REAL RUDE OF HER TO STAY IN LABOR FORTY HOURS JUST FOR HER OWN SELFISH PLEASURE.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEANT!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
www.babyblues.com

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AtoMo! WHAT'S WitH ALL tHAt VeLCRO?!!
I LiKe VeLCRO.
But YOU DON't NeeD it! We DON't NeeD it: LUGGING it AROUND WiLL JUSt SLOW US DOWN!
AHA! So 'tis true! There is SUCH A tHiNG AS VeLCRO eNVY!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Neil Young, Booker T. Jones, Nadia Comaneci, David Schwimmer

Happy Birthday: It won't take you long to pick up the information you need in order to do something that is important to you and to your future. You will have the added discipline this year to quit bad habits and start anew. If you are reluctant to listen to others, you may miss out on something of value. Your numbers are 10, 13, 15, 22, 28, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can meet someone special if you get involved in worthwhile causes. Business partnerships could evolve from conversations with established individuals. Don't hesitate to express yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Emotional confrontations will interfere with your performance at work. Separate situations in order to remain objective, or you will jeopardize the issues most important to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take advantage of this time of feeling relaxed to enjoy creative endeavors or physical fitness programs. It will be a wonderful evening for socializing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may find yourself taking care of the needs of older family members. Be sure to get relatives to help you rather than taking all the responsibility yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can solidify a partnership if you have played your cards right. No need to pressure anyone. Your charm and obvious sex appeal will attract the individuals you least expected.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make plans to do things with children. You can stabilize your relationship if you are willing to stroke your mate's ego. Family projects will be successful.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will receive money that you thought you'd never see again. Make sure you put it to good use. Your plans for entertainment will be well received by your friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may have been feeling stifled at home. Too many people have dropped in to see you. Don't allow family to put unreasonable demands on you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may find it difficult to discuss personal problems, but you must get an outsider's opinion. It's imperative that you start to see your situation from other viewpoints.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be torn between work and home once again. Make the necessary phone calls before your mate is out of bed or include him or her in your business deliberations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You are always a little ahead of your time. Unfortunately, this can cause envy and opposition among others. Do your own thing and refuse to let anyone get your dander up.

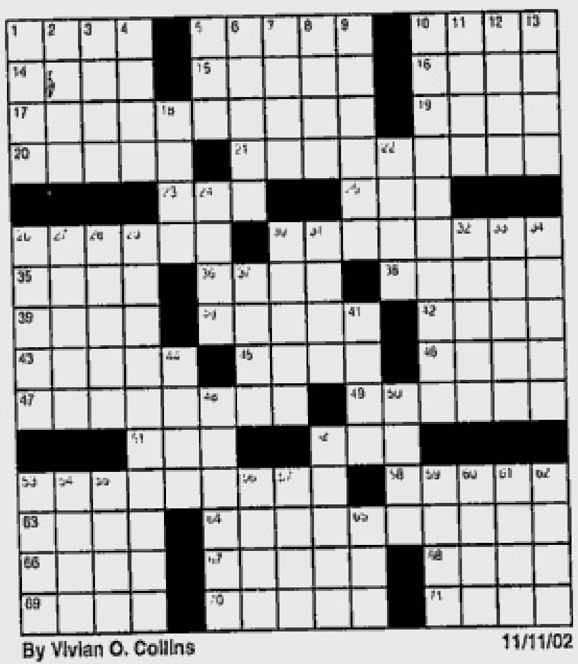
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put your efforts into beautifying your home. Rewards for a job well done should be in order. Treat everyone to dinner out or a movie.

Birthday Baby: You will be concerned with what everyone around you is up to. Your preoccupation with the way things work can be advantageous if you apply this curiosity to life. You will be quick, interesting and certainly a little ahead of your time.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Dissimulation
5 Site of rites
10 Strong wind
14 Consumes
15 Surgical dressing material
16 __-friendly
17 Creepy-crawlie?
19 "Beloved" author Morrison
20 Sound adjuster
21 Relating to the aged
23 Author of "Foucault's Pendulum"
25 Sultry West
26 Founder of genetics
30 Guy with a simple weapon
35 Sandwich cookie
36 Competent
38 Addis __, Eth.
39 Kind of stick?
40 Trepidation
42 Composer Khachaturian
43 Stage a coup
45 Basilica area
46 Animation
47 Most annoying
49 Wet impacts
51 Letter after zeta
52 Be unwell
53 Practice
58 Emulate Cicero
63 On the peak of
64 Pane store?
66 Stable denizen
67 Action starter?
68 Meadow mouse
69 Arcturus or Rigel, e.g.
70 On the way
71 Journalist Ernie

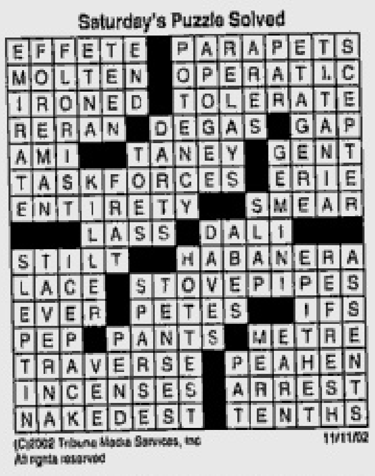
DOWN
1 Nuisance
2 Honolulu's island
3 Knock senseless
4 Punta del __, Uruguay
5 Vital statistic
6 Florida key
7 London subway
8 Cote d'__
9 Government in power
10 Formal dance on Skid Row?
11 Hebrew zither
12 Filmmaker Reifenstahl
13 Viking redhead
18 Shade source
22 Honor student's grades?
24 Dressed
26 Tidy any loose ends
27 Irregularly notched
28 Mulled wine
29 Key personnel?
30 Napped
31 Pod populace
32 "West Side Story" song
33 Sternward
34 Appellations
37 Lingerie pieces
41 Lucy's love
44 Pocket bread
48 Solicit persistently
50 Farm implement
52 Priscilla's dear John
53 NFL squad
54 Coup d'__
55 Dance circle
56 Chinese: pref.
57 Opposed to
59 Letters on an invitation
60 Nautical shout
61 Travel charge
62 Fencing sword
65 Part of NATO



By Vivian O. Collins
Leesburg, GA

11/11/02

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



E	F	F	E	T	E	■	P	A	R	A	P	E	T	S
M	O	L	T	E	N	■	O	P	E	R	A	T	I	C
I	R	O	N	E	D	■	T	O	L	E	R	A	T	E
R	E	R	A	N	■	D	E	G	A	S	■	G	A	P
A	M	I	■	■	T	A	N	E	Y	■	G	E	N	T
T	A	S	K	F	O	R	C	E	S	■	E	R	I	E
E	N	T	I	R	E	T	Y	■	■	S	M	E	A	R
■	■	■	L	A	S	S	■	D	A	L	I	■	■	■
S	T	I	L	T	■	■	H	A	B	A	N	E	R	A
L	A	C	E	■	S	T	O	V	E	P	I	P	E	S
E	V	E	R	■	P	E	T	E	S	■	■	I	F	S
P	E	P	■	P	A	N	T	S	■	M	E	T	R	E
T	R	A	V	E	R	S	E	■	P	E	A	H	E	N
I	N	C	E	N	S	E	S	■	A	R	R	E	S	T
N	A	K	E	D	E	S	T	■	T	E	N	T	H	S

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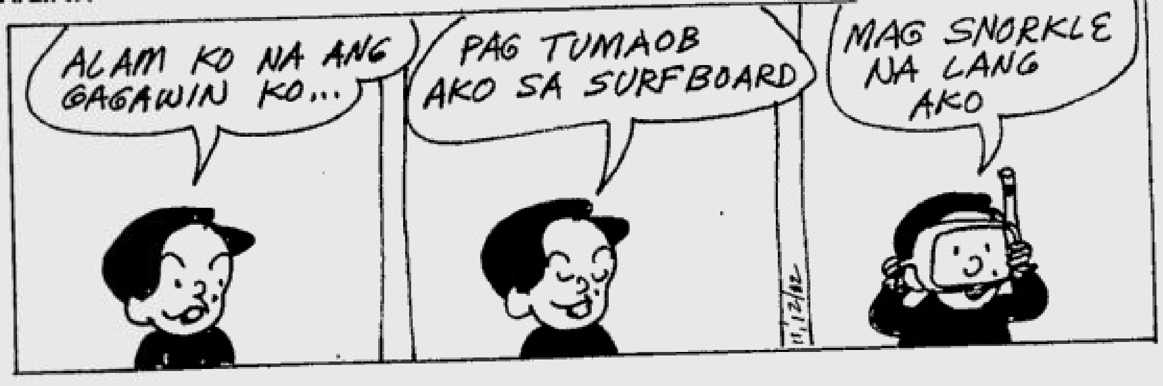
11/11/02

Stumped? Call 900-656-8900. 99 cents a minute

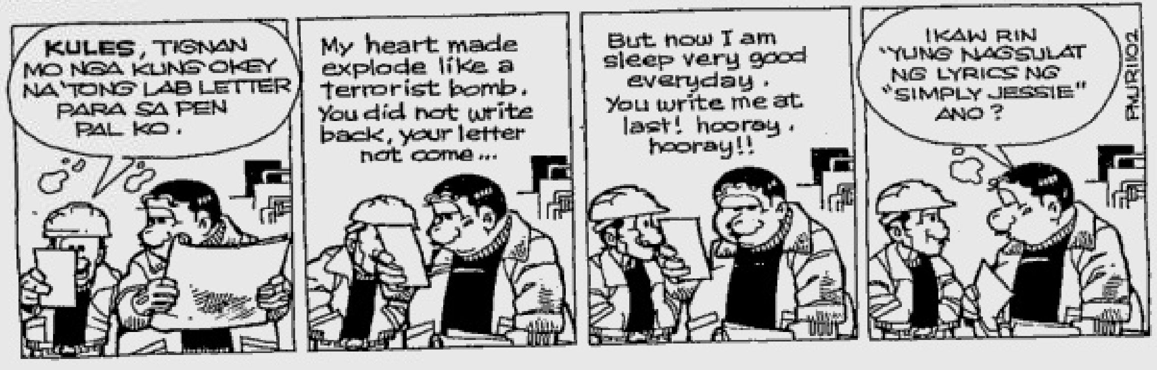
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ALAM KO NA ANG GAGAWIN KO...
PAG TUMAOB AKO SA SURFBOARD
MAG SNORKLE NA LANG AKO
11/12/02

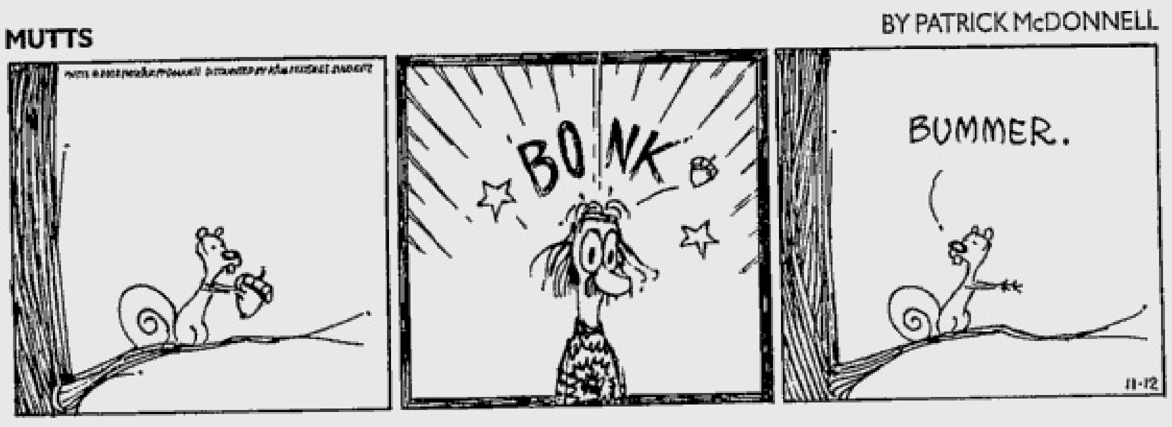
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KULES, TIGNAN MO NGA KUNG OKEY NA 'TONG LAB LETTER PARA SA PEN PAL KO.
My heart made explode like a terrorist bomb. You did not write back, your letter not come...
But now I am sleep very good everyday. You write me at last! hooray, hooray!!
IKAW RIN 'YUNG NAGSULAT NG LYRICS NG "SIMPLY JESSIE" ANO?
PMJR1102

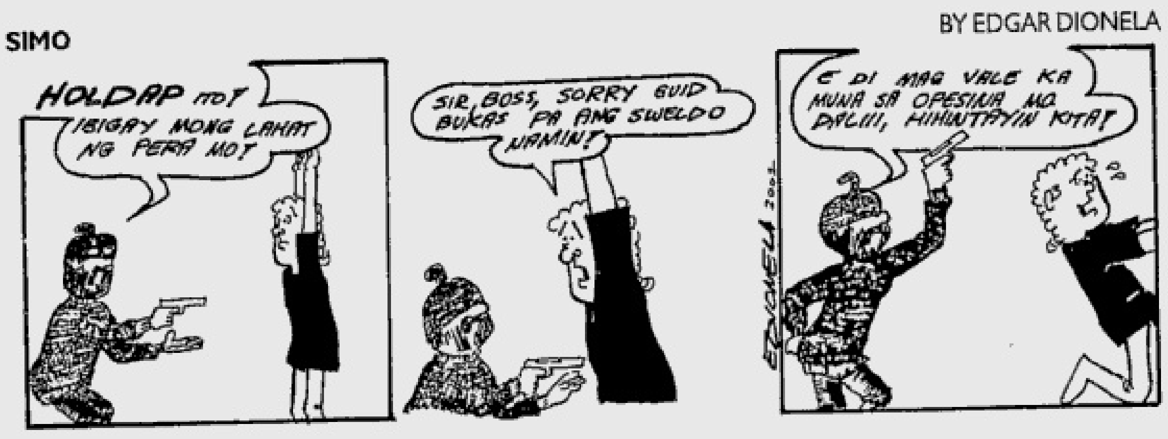
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BONK
BUMMER.
11-12

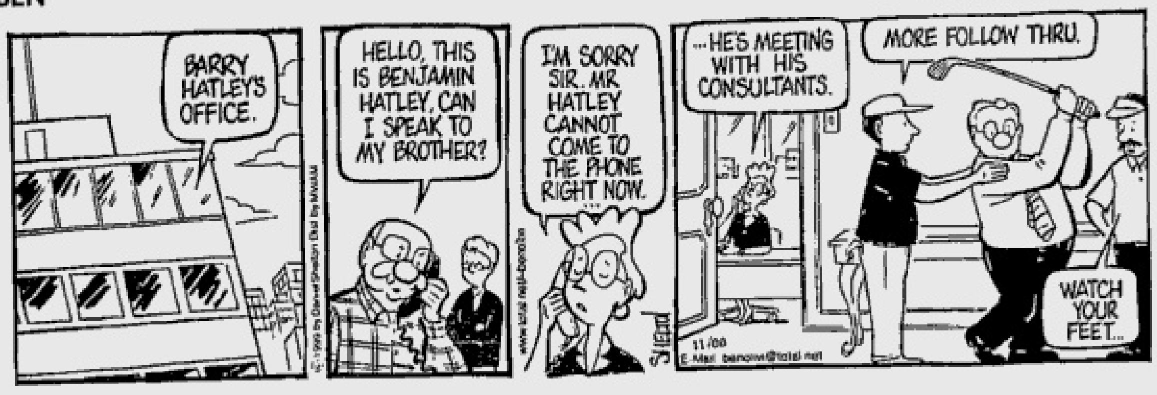
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


HOLDAP 'TO! IBIGAY MONG LAHAT NG PERA MO!
SIR, BOSS, SORRY GUID BUKAS PA ANG SWELDO NAMIN!
E DI MAG VALE KA MUNA SA OPESINA MO. DALI!!, HIHINTAYIN KITA!
DIONELA 2002

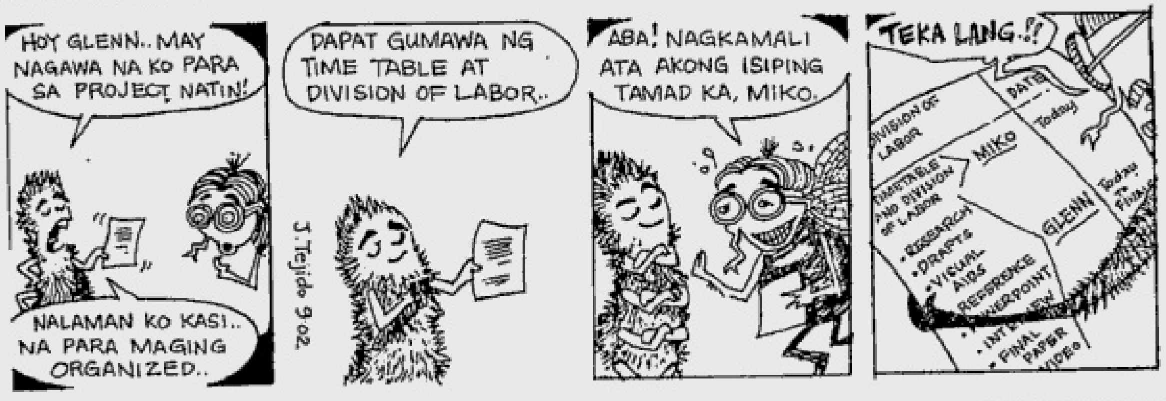
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BARRY HATLEY'S OFFICE.
HELLO, THIS IS BENJAMIN HATLEY, CAN I SPEAK TO MY BROTHER?
I'M SORRY SIR. MR HATLEY CANNOT COME TO THE PHONE RIGHT NOW.
...HE'S MEETING WITH HIS CONSULTANTS.
MORE FOLLOW THRU.
WATCH YOUR FEET...
SHELTON
11/00
E-Mail benohm@total.net

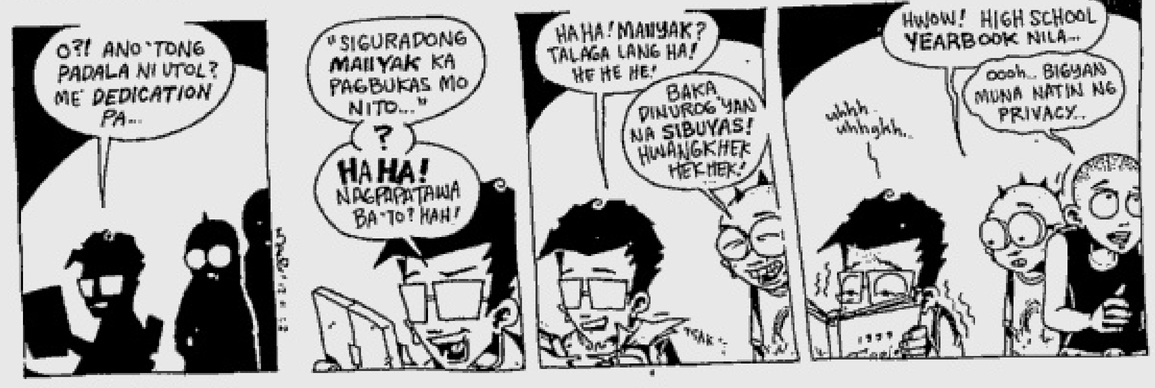
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HOY GLENN.. MAY NAGAWA NA KO PARA SA PROJECT NATIN!
NALAMAN KO KASI.. NA PARA MAGING ORGANIZED..
DAPAT GUMAWA NG TIME TABLE AT DIVISION OF LABOR..
J. Tejido 9.02
ABA! NAGKAMALI ATA AKONG ISIPING TAMAD KA, MIKO.
TEKA LANG..!?
DIVISION OF LABOR
DATE
TIMETABLE AND DIVISION OF LABOR
MIKO
Today
GLENN
Today → Finals
RESEARCH
DRAFTS
VISUAL AIDS
REFERENCE
POWERPOINT
INTERVIEW
FINAL PAPER
VIDEO

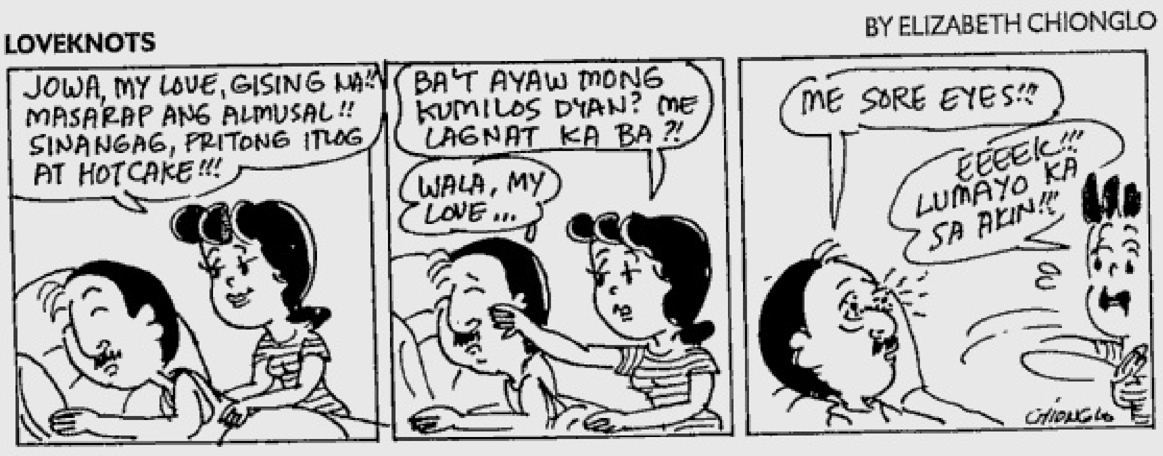
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


O?! ANO 'TONG PADALA NI UTOL? ME' DEDICATION PA...
"SIGURADONG MAIIYAK KA PAGBUKAS MO NITO..."
?
HA HA! NAGPAPATAWA BA 'TO? HAH!
HA HA! MANYAK? TALAGA LANG HA! HE HE HE!
BAKA DINUROG 'YAN NA SIBUYAS! HWANGKHEK HEK HEK!
uhhh.. uhhghh..
HWOW! HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK NILA...
oooh.. BIGYAN MUNA NATIN NG PRIVACY..

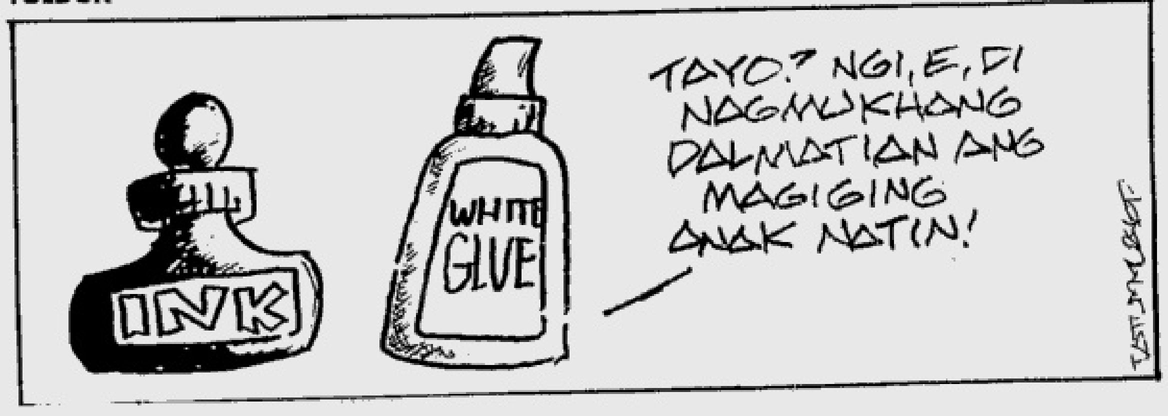
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, MY LOVE, GISING NA!! MASARAP ANG ALMUSAL!! SINANGAG, PRITONG ITLOG AT HOTCAKE!!!
BA'T AYAW MONG KUMILOS DYAN? ME LAGNAT KA BA?!
WALA, MY LOVE...
ME SORE EYES!!
EEEEK!!! LUMAYO KA SA AKIN!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


INK
WHITE GLUE
TAYO?! NGI, E, DI NAGMUKHANG DALMATIAN ANG MAGIGING ANAK NATIN!

RELEASING negative energy with a magic "Ha!"

The bath as a ritual of life

From page C8

there was only sweet silence induced by images of light projected on a white screen and enhanced by the hushed presence of others similarly pulled to the spot.

Ten steps away, an Indian yogi did his thing. Prakash ("Light"), Mandarin Oriental Manila's resident *hatha* yoga instructor, demonstrated basic *asanas* (postures) that began and concluded with the Perfect Lotus. Emerging from the routine, he explained:

"Yoga, originated in India many thousands of years ago, is the oldest system of personality development encompassing body, mind, spirit. The word 'yoga' itself is derived from Sanskrit, one of the world's most ancient languages. In its simplicity, yoga means 'a bringing together of the parts in order to create a union or balance.' Today, yoga is best known for its *asana* tradition. This is very strange, because the goal of yoga has always been to calm the mind, and *asanas* are taught merely as aids. In other words, its aim is not so much to fashion beautifully flexible bodies, but to produce meditation masters."

For the less esoterically inclined, a modern massage center setup manned by the Orient Day Spa was just another 10 steps away.

Non-alcoholic drinks and "lovingly prepared comfort food" were served non-stop by cordial waiters in white.

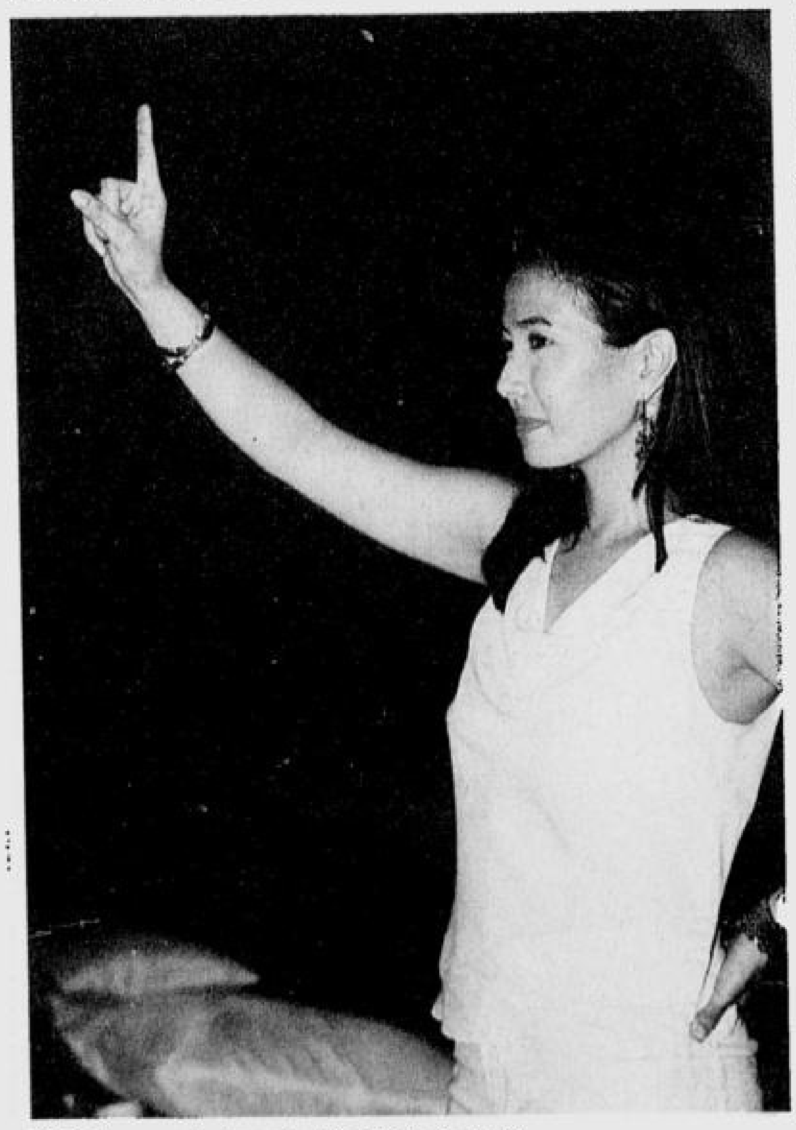
In fact, having been coaxed to dress down for "total relaxation," everyone wore white—guests and hosts alike, as well as the carefully chosen speakers, two famously "evolved women." The final phase of "Dove Moments" was a back-to-back discourse by nutritionist-beauty queen Chat Silayan on "Wholistic Fitness through a Healthy Diet," and author-fitness icon Cory Quirino on "Secrets of Beauty and Well-Being."

Silayan dwelt on high-quality nutrition as the wellspring of high-quality thoughts and, therefore, of high-quality lifestyles. Quirino, swearing by moonshine and magic, exhorted the spellbound audience to "release" dreams by banishing negative feelings.

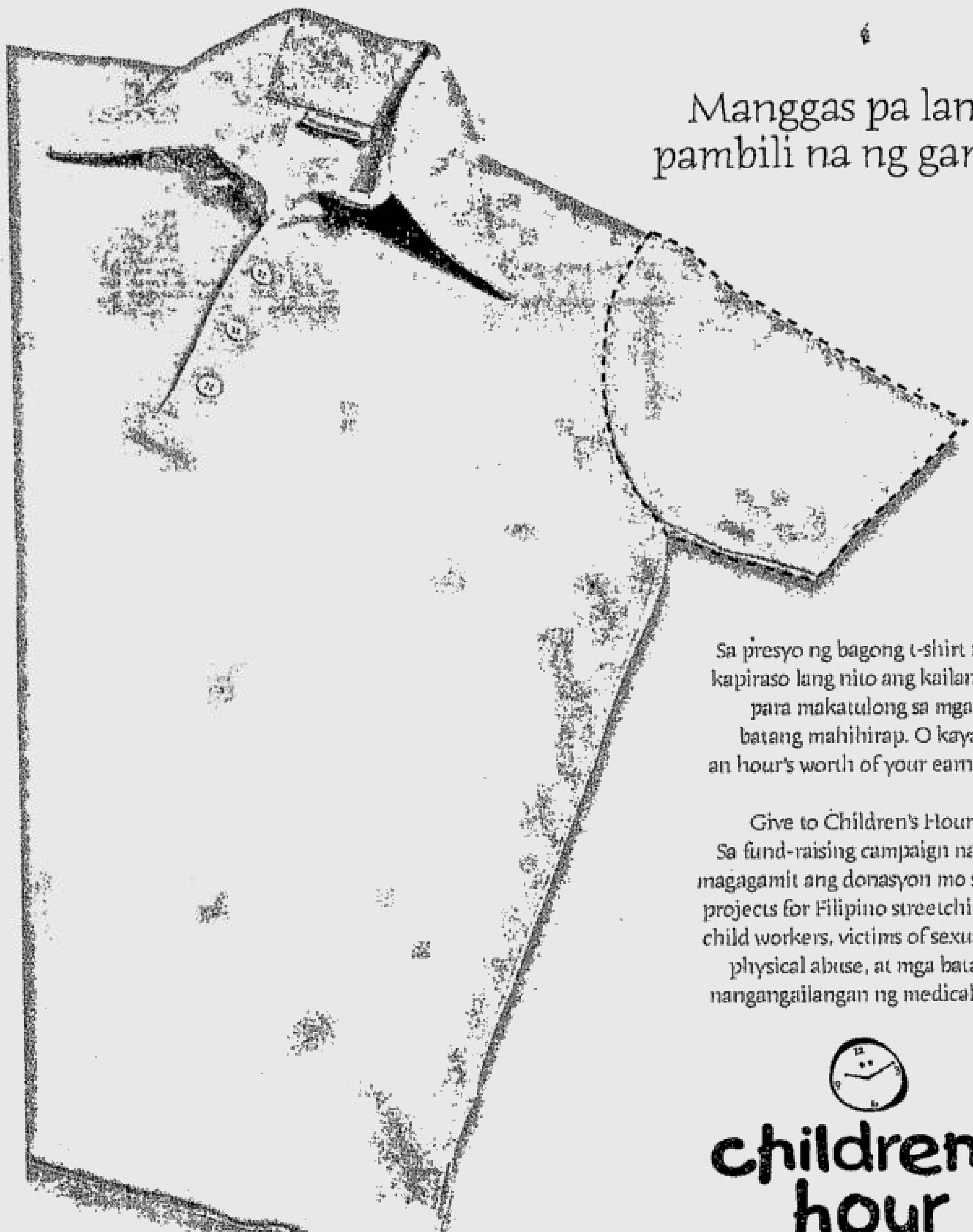
Thus was the evening held fast by unabashed openness. While it was clearly a gathering of enthusiasts from varied disciplines—business, fashion, religion, communications, the arts and the academe, everyone was spontaneous; no one was a stranger.

The audacious premise was proven true: thrown into their natural habitat, these creatures of the same essence would quite naturally find definitive "Dove Moments."

'Dove Moments' on a moonlit night when no one was a stranger



MIA Cuenca declares her "power of one."



Manggas pa lang,
pambili na ng gamot.

Sa presyo ng bagong t-shirt mo,
kapiraso lang nito ang kailangan
para makatulong sa mga
batang mahihirap. O kaya,
an hour's worth of your earnings.

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Sa fund-raising campaign na ito,
magagamit ang donasyon mo sa mga
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child workers, victims of sexual and
physical abuse, at mga batang
nangangailangan ng medical care.

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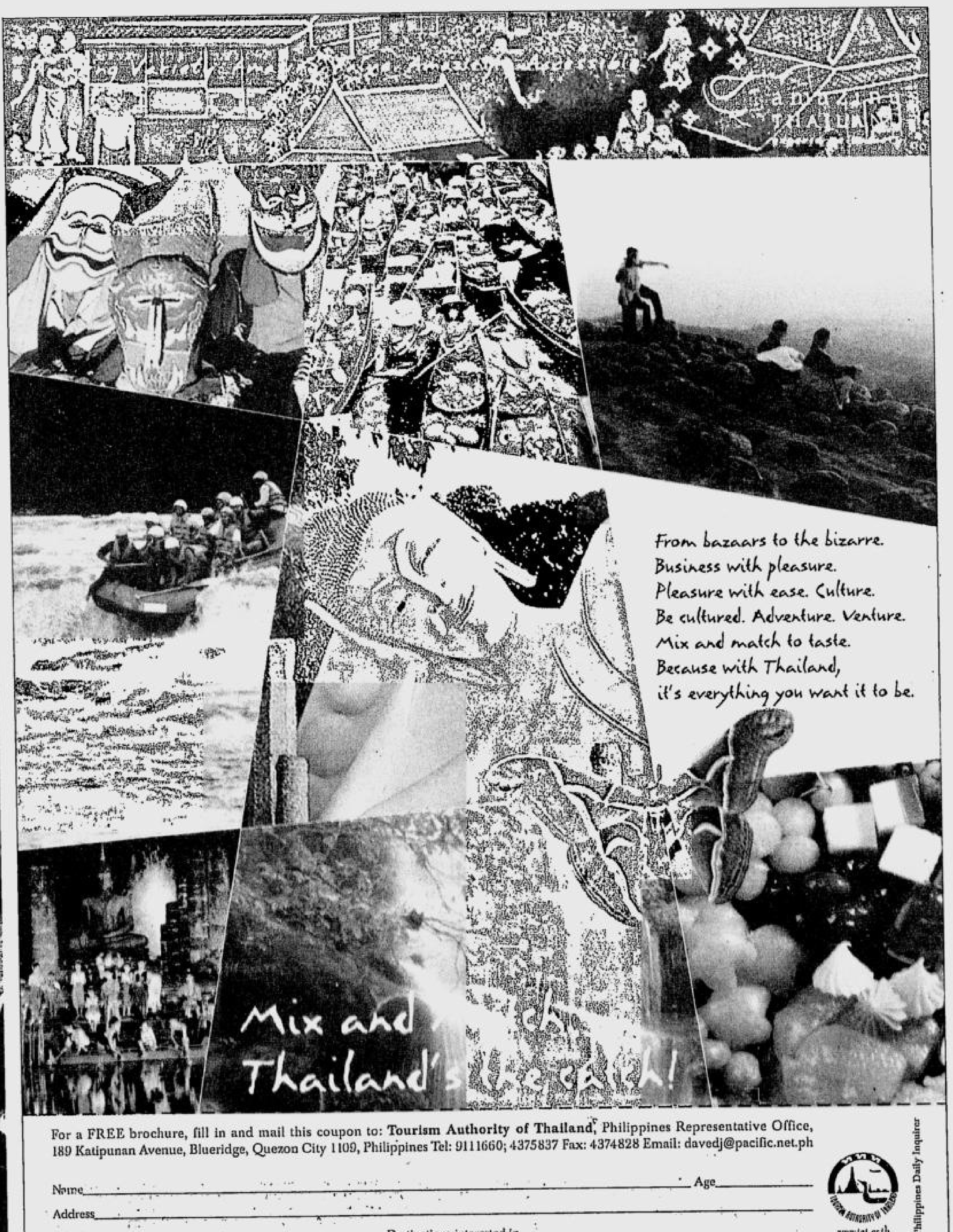

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Philippines Daily Inquirer

The bath as a ritual of life

By Emmie G. Velarde

THE LADIES listen to Prakash, Mandarin Oriental's resident yogi.

WELL-BEING is a subtle state. It is not measured in highs and lows. Its main ingredient is contentment, more than pleasure. Its goal is constancy, more than recurrence.

Be that as it may, there is a need for a glimpse every now and then, so that one may recognize it when at last it comes to stay.

On a recent full-moon evening when everything was right for believers, "Dove Moments" provided glimpses aplenty. The event felt exactly as it was named—light, fleeting, but purposeful.

Women-propelled, "Dove Moments" introduced bath products, though not in the usual chirp or bluster. The organizers created an atmosphere meant to illustrate the feelings that a leisurely, appreciable spell in the shower induced.

A statement of philosophy used, predictably but precisely, such words as "cleansing," "stream of consciousness," and "healing." It is said, in so many words, that a woman's nature consisted of femininity, inner strength and a nurturing bent, in equal parts.

How are these innate qualities fed? "Different women find their own spaces," the statement said—in early morning walks, reading, painting, gardening. But they all share a common indulgence.

Right. The bath.

"Stay in there a few minutes more," was the message. Recall elements of the formative process symbolized by water in the womb—nourishment, stillness, shelter. Well-being.

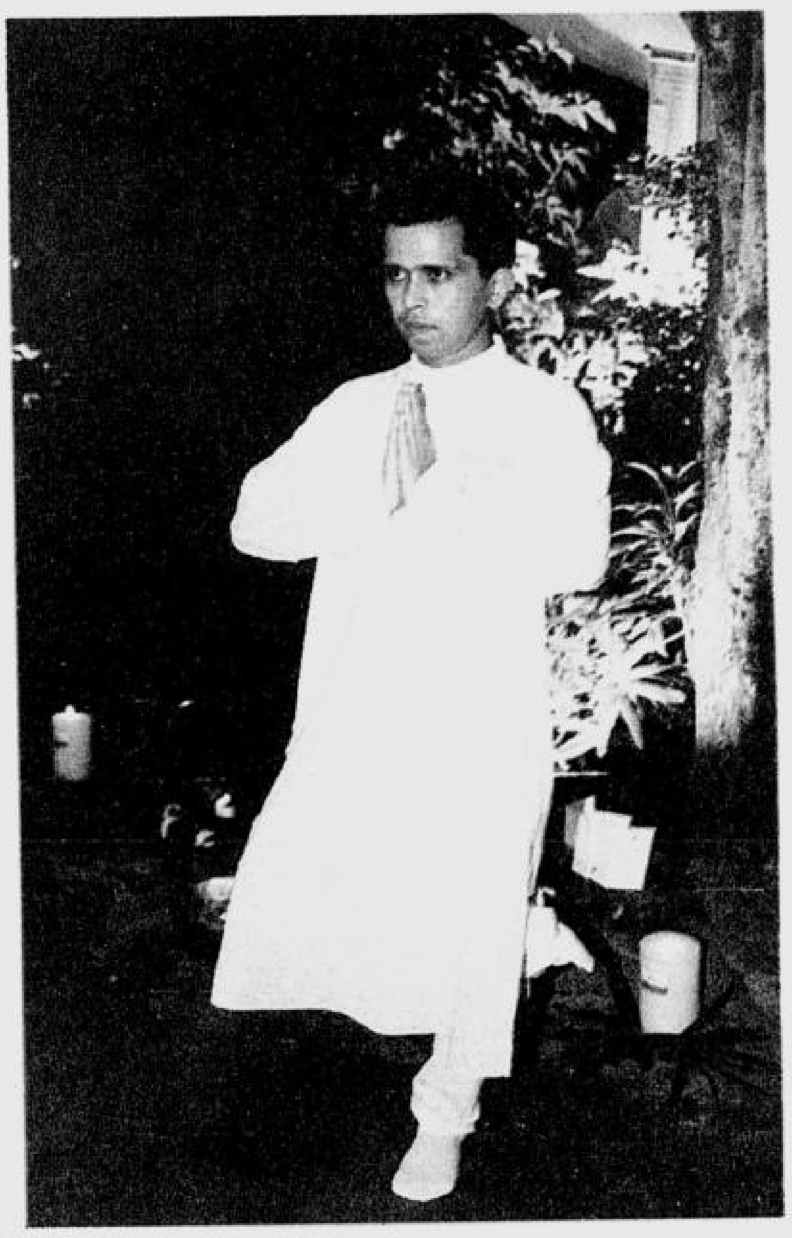
Tents of pleasure

A 15-minute neck-and-shoulder rub could work like a full-body massage in the right setting. Under the trees, in a garden called "Kasalikasan," right in the middle of the wide-open field that is The Fort in Makati, was perfect.

Except that, it was better. Bugs were kept away with fragrant and slowly burning citronella candles in little clay jars lining the footpaths. This believer's unyielding shoulders were tamed by confident hands belonging to a therapist from St. Clare Patronage for the Sick Poor (2499 Beata St., Pandacan; tel. 563-3070). Run by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, the center is a refuge for the weary—and with every soothing stroke over taut muscles, the reasons were made more and more obvious.

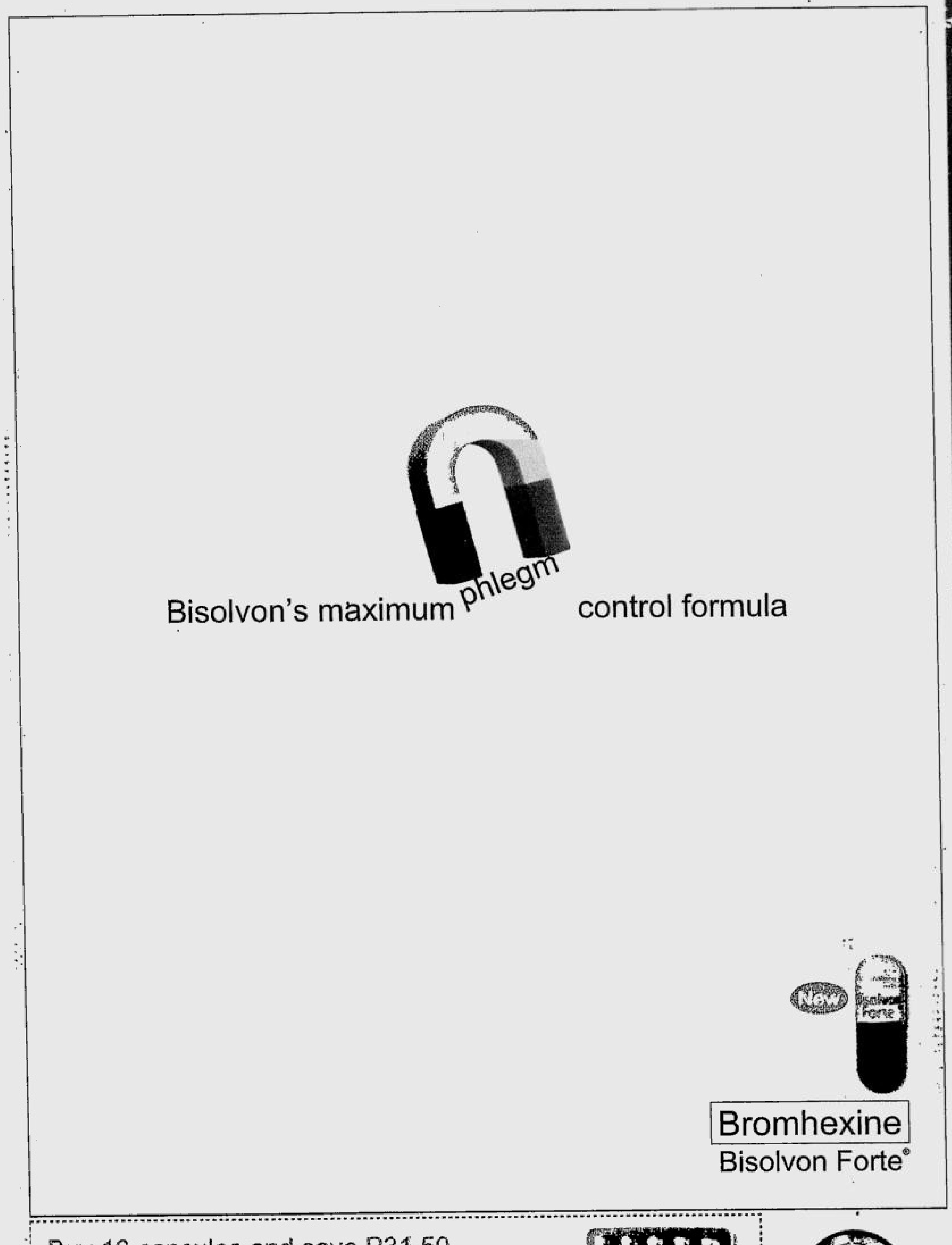
Soft *murli* and *tabla* sounds wafted from the nearby tent, where yoga teachers of the Brahma Kumaris conducted open-eyed meditation "for people who really want to know what's going on." Here, the experience started and culminated in the mind. No words were spoken that were not sought. Otherwise,

THE BATH/ p.C7


PRAKASH, in a pure yoga pose

EVA Abesamis registers in the Pure Yoga Pavilion.

TINA Ferreros and Maryann Lumen transfer positive energy to each other.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